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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

California wildfires: Firefighters on Sunday battled to contain several wildfires that blackened thousands of acres and forced scores of people to evacuate their homes.

A new fire moved rapidly through thick brush in Riverside County, charring 350 acres and triggering evacuations as it threatened an unknown number of houses in the tiny desert community of Anza, about 110 miles southeast of Los Angeles. About 300 firefighters and nine aircraft battled the blaze in heat that reached 112 degrees. It was 75 percent contained Sunday night.

Nearly 700 firefighters converged on another blaze in the Angeles National Forest that had burned 1,330 acres near the Los Angeles suburb of Castaic and destroyed two outbuildings. The firefighters faced temperatures of nearly 100 degrees. The fire, reported Saturday afternoon, was fully contained Sunday.

Church abuse scandal: In Louisville, Ky., two dozen people are suing an order of nuns that staffed an orphanage decades ago.

The Kentucky lawsuit against the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth was brought by seven plaintiffs on July 15, a year after 243 people received a \$25.7 million abuse settlement with the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Some plaintiffs have accused the Rev. Herman J. Lammer of molesting or raping them. He served as the resident chaplain at St. Thomas-St. Vincent Orphanage, which the sisters ran from 1952 until it closed in 1983. Lammer died in 1986. But there are also allegations against about a dozen nuns.

Almost all the plaintiffs are women who claim the sisters molested and beat them while they lived at the orphanage.

World

1986 Berlin disco bombings: Libyan envoys opened a new round of talks Monday with German lawyers on compensation claims over a 1986 Berlin disco bombing that killed three people and injured 229 others, one of the lawyers said.

The blast at the La Belle disco in then-West Berlin, killed two American servicemen and a Turkish woman.

A Berlin court ruled in 2001 that the bombing was organized by the Libyan secret service and aided by the Libyan Embassy in then-communist East Berlin.

Hunger in Zimbabwe: At least 125 people have died of malnutrition in Bulawayo, Zim-



Flood dangers: A child walks over a bamboo bridge in a flood-affected relief center in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Sunday. Floodwaters receded from most parts of Bangladesh on Saturday, but a major Indian dam was dangerously overflowing and dozens more deaths were reported across South Asia, taking the region's monsoon season death toll to 2,018.

babwe, since March, despite President Robert Mugabe's assurances that the country has a food surplus, a newspaper reported.

Bulawayo City Health Department officials reported in a local paper that 29 people died in July, 12 in June, 21 in May, and 63 in March. Bulawayo is run by the opposition Movement for Democratic Change party.

Bosnian mass grave: Forensic experts said Monday they found a mass grave in the waste dump of a coal mine in eastern Bosnia, which they suspect may contain the bodies of about 350 Muslims who disappeared from a Bosnian Serb detention center during the Bosnian war.

According to Amor Masovic, the head of the team that conducted a probe of the soil that revealed human remains, the remains could be those of Muslims who were held in a former jail in the town of Foca about 45 miles southeast of Sarajevo that was turned into a detention center by Bosnian Serbs.

Indonesian elections: An Indonesian court refused on Monday to alter the results of the country's historic presidential election, dismissing a complaint from third-place finisher Wiranto that the vote was marred.

Wiranto, a former security minister who has been accused of war crimes, alleged that widespread fraud and irregularities

cost him a spot in the Sept. 20 run-off election between the two top vote-getters. He finished third behind retired general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

NATO Afghan mission: Europe's five-nation defense force took on its biggest challenge to date on Monday when its French commander took control of NATO's expanding mission to bring stability to Afghanistan.

Made up of forces from Germany, France, Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg, the European force relieves Canada from its turn at the head of the 6,500-strong troops drawn from NATO members and beyond.

Japan's war support: Two Japanese destroyers and a supply vessel left Monday for the Indian Ocean, where they will assist the U.S.-led anti-terror campaign in Afghanistan.

The three ships were to help with noncombat logistics and ferry supplies and fuel for coalition forces trying to restore order in Afghanistan and hunt down militant leaders, including al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden, said Maritime Self-Defense Forces spokesman Kazuro Yamada.

Tokyo's ability to back its chief ally, however, is limited to noncombat missions by its post-World War II pacifist constitution.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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2nd ID outfitted with state-of-the-art gear

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Christmas came early last week for 2nd Infantry Division soldiers in the Middle East.

The soldiers, en route to Iraq with the division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team — the "Strike Force" — each got \$1,400 or more worth of state-of-the-art equipment as part of the Army's Rapid Fielding Initiative, which gives soldiers the latest in battle clothing and fighting gear.

Maj. Kevin Korchec, of the Nevada Army National Guard, played Santa. He handed out the gear but did not bother dressing up in a red suit, something that would have been foolish in the 110-degree F heat at Camp Buehring, where the Strike Force is preparing for its Iraq mission.

The equipment issued to each soldier included two pairs of boots (for winter and summer), Wiley X sunglasses, goggles, sports bras for the women, T-shirts, gloves, socks, winter underwear, a polar fleece jacket, an advanced combat helmet, a Modular Lightweight Load Carrying Equipment vest and a Gerber multitool.

Some soldiers got additional specialized equipment such as telescopic sights and flashlights that attach to their weapons.



A soldier from 1st Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, tries on a pair of Wiley X sunglasses issued to him at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

"It is equipment that is geared toward this theater. It is stuff soldiers normally buy for themselves," Korchec said.

Pfc. Adrian Cedillo of Company B, 1st Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment had his arms full of new gear as he stood with other soldiers collecting equipment in a tent at Camp Buehring on Saturday morning.

His favorite new piece of equipment is the "ACOG," or Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight, for his M-16 rifle, he said.

"It doesn't use batteries like my old sight and it is four times as powerful," he said.

The soldiers said many of them bought their own sights before they came to the desert.

Andrew Mizera of Company C, 2nd Forward Support Battalion, bought his own NC-Star telescopic sight for his M-16 before he left South Korea.

The sight cost \$100 from johnmason.com, he said.

"I can hit a target out to 500 yards away with this. Without it, my range is only 300 yards," he said.

Another 2nd FSB soldier, Pfc. Sacarra Pusey, said the new Kevlar helmet, which features a reversible cover that changes from green to tan, is her favorite piece of new equipment.

"It is much lighter and more comfortable than my old helmet," she said.

Pfc. Arthur Waddle, a mechanic with 2nd FSB, preferred the Gerber, which is the third multitool the young soldier has owned. The first was a Leatherman, he said.

"I broke that pretty quick," he said.

Next came his first Gerber that survived being run over by a truck but got lost.

Waddle plans to put his new multitool to good use.

"You can do a lot of stuff with it. You can take apart a HMWV (High Mobility Wheeled Vehicle) with a Gerber," he claimed.

Pvt. Jacob Hinds, also of 2nd FSB, said the new equipment is the sort of items, along with portable DVD players and lap-top computers, that many soldiers might have spent their last paycheck on in South Korea.

However, he was surprised to get the winter clothing, given the hot conditions in the Middle East.

"It must get cold where we are going," he said.

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Battalion keeps 'Blue Babe Highway' safe from IEDs

By RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

BAQOUBA, Iraq — If the 82nd Engineer Battalion soldiers are lucky, the hunt for roadside bombs can be the most boring four hours of their lives.

On Saturday, they were lucky.

The battalion's soldiers are on the road 24 hours a day in four-hour shifts, scouring "Blue Babe Highway" for the nasty home-made bombs known to soldiers as improvised explosive devices (IED). The highway is a vital convoy route from Forward Operating Base Gabe to its resupply point at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

The patrol involves driving back and forth along the highway, which had little traffic on Saturday, and occasionally parking to watch things.

On one of these "breaks," soldiers in the lead vehicle passed the time by telling war stories.

"We saw one IED that was made out of a 55-gallon barrel with a sign on top of it," said Sgt. Joshua Staderman, of Company C, out of Bamberg, Germany. As gunner, he sits on a 2-inch-wide strap, resembling a swing.

His head and shoulders poke out of the roof so he can man the gun that sits atop the vehicle.

"It blew when we got close to it, and a piece of shrapnel came in at the bottom of the rear passenger door (under the vehicle's armor), shot across the Humvee and cut a chunk out of the driver's calf."

Sgt. Michael Davis, the vehicle commander, has been luckier. He hasn't been hit by an IED, but had a close call with a rocket-propelled grenade, he said.

The driver, Pfc. Sergio Sanchez, is a tank driver from 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, out of Vilseck, Germany. He is attached to Company C.

"Insurgents learned a long time ago that IEDs don't do anything to our tanks," Sanchez said. "They don't even try anymore."

Three vehicles back, the fourth and last in the convoy, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Patterson, the 3rd Platoon sergeant, is testing the theory that lightning — in the form of roadside bombs — won't strike the same vehicle twice.

On Thursday, Patterson's vehicle was hit by a bomb while he was on one of these patrols. The heat of the blast melted the ballistic window and pushed it inward. It didn't break, however. The blast also sent jagged pieces of metal into the tires, flattening both on the passenger side, and into the air conditioner, damaging it beyond repair.

The blast also sprayed minute pieces of shrapnel that struck the gunner, who had minor injuries to his face and returned to duty the next day, Patterson said.

Patterson's vehicle was towed back to FOB Gabe.

The one-month-old Humvee was repaired overnight, except for the air conditioning, and put back on the road.

"We went right back out the next day," Patterson said, about 30 minutes before the patrol went out Saturday. "We've learned to put a lot of faith in the up-armored Humvees."

The IED was in a hole that was still there from another explosion," Patterson said. "We see that a lot. What we really look for out there is holes in the road where bombs can be hidden, or any kind of wire



RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia, 82nd Engineer Battalion, stands next to his Humvee, scarred by shrapnel, last week. Soldiers from his battalion conduct patrols in search of roadside bombs on the same road, known as "Blue Babe Highway," where the damage to his vehicle was caused in June.

in the road."

As the patrol begins to roll again, the only sound is the loud engine of the Humvee. The windows are closed to keep shrapnel out, the heat is stifling.

Sanchez and Davis scan the road to the front and their respective sides.

Staderman scans the perimeter to the front and both sides. The hum of the engine seems to melt away and the silence becomes almost maddening. Every vehicle is

suspect, as is every mound of dirt on the road's shoulder. At any moment, the silence could give way to the next explosion.

It would seem these bomb hunters would be as skittish as wild cats. But their nerve has been tested over the past five months.

"We aren't jumpy anymore," Staderman said. "We're jumpy as hell when we first got here. Not anymore."

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2nd FSB show true grit on Udairi Range

Troops get taste of stinging sand, moving targets, heat

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

SUDAIRI RANGE, Kuwait—Oldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division have begun training in the desert, shooting at stationary and moving targets at Udairi Range, Kuwait.

Soldiers from the 2nd Forward Support Battalion, who arrived from South Korea last week, were the first troops to hit the range in the desert. They were also the first troops from 2nd ID's 2nd Brigade Combat Team to arrive in Kuwait.

Second FSB commander 1st Lt. Col. Richard Bezold said that traditionally, his unit would not spearhead a brigade combat team into battle.

"The combat forces usually lead and the support forces follow and establish support areas so the combat forces can receive supplies," he said.

But "in this situation the theater is more mature and we are relieving another unit, so it was decided to establish the logistics infrastructure so the (combat) units could have a support base."

Since the 2nd FSB was the first unit to arrive in the theater, it was the first to hit the ranges in Kuwait.

The unit's first range training involved zeroing weapons, a process that revealed the different challenges soldiers will face in the desert, Bezold said.

Also, he said, "In South Korea, it is very humid so we put oil on

our weapons. In the desert if you put oil on them they will jam up on you because the sand gets inside."

On Sunday, soldiers from the 2nd FSB traveled from their base at Camp Buehring to Udairi Range for live-fire entry control point training.

The range is a short drive from the camp, across a sandy plain populated by camels and a few patches of dead-looking vegetation.

At the range, the sun beat down; a howling hot wind blew sand in soldiers' faces as they fired at stationary targets from different positions, such as standing, kneeling and turning.

The idea was to teach soldiers to shoot from the sort of positions from which they might have to

fight at an entry control point, said Sgt. James Washington of the 2nd FSB, who supervised the training.

"These are skills that could be used in other areas such as patrolling," he said.

After the target shoot, the soldiers moved to a range designed to simulate an attack by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, or IED.

Military Professional Resources Inc. employee Dave Cowie built the range a year ago from equipment supplied from Belgium and has operated it ever since.

In that time, more than 5,000 soldiers have fired more than



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from the 2nd Forward Support Battalion, who arrived from South Korea last week, fire at moving targets on Udairi Range, Kuwait.

250,000 rounds on the range, he said.

The range includes a rail system that moves a vehicle-shaped target towards an entry control point at 8-10 mph.

Cowie is able to control a pop-up, man-sized target that appears in the driver's seat as the vehicle approaches.

The vehicle's "driver" wears a red-and-white-checked scarf on his head and "is supposed to represent your typical Iraqi terrorist insurgent trying to bust a gate. The guards' objective is to kill and disable the driver as a first line of defense," Cowie said.

"With the armor plating system I have designed on the vehicle, they actually have to hit the driver. They can't get a lucky shot," he said.

During a tour to Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division, former sol-

dier Cowie never saw a vehicle-borne IED attack, but said such attacks are a reality in the country today.

Cowie said MPRI, as the company is known, gives the Army feed-

back on where it should place guard towers at entry control points, based on soldiers' accuracy from various firing positions at Udairi Range.

Second FSB soldier Sgt. James Forest said he enjoyed the training.

"This is the first time we have shot at a moving target like this. It was a good experience to shoot at something coming at you," he said.

Sgt. James Forest
2nd FSB soldier

Another 2nd FSB soldier, Sgt. Nicholas Likins, said he hoped to build on the training and be able to "stop something like this if it ever does happen."

E-mail: srobson@starsandstripes.com

Bronchitis causes GI to collapse

UDAIRI RANGE, Kuwait—The 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team suffered its first casualty in the desert Sunday when a soldier collapsed and was medically evacuated after suffering from bronchitis brought on by dust storms at Udairi Range.

The female soldier, with the 2nd Forward Support Battalion, was training at the desert range not far from the strike force's base at Camp Buehring when the incident occurred.

The soldier collapsed and was carried to a combat lifesaver by four members of her unit; she was expected to return to her unit after being evacuated and treated, officials said.

Temperatures were more than 110 degrees at the time, and combat lifesaver Pfc. Rom Yous at first suspected the soldier had a heat injury, he said. Yous, who has treated heat injuries in South Korea, elevated the soldier's legs, attached an intravenous drip and loosened her clothing to ensure she had proper blood flow, he said.

"She was going through a seizure. She wasn't responding so I had to assess the situation just by seeing what her symptoms were. I started the procedures of evaluating a casualty."

"Her pulse was around 55 beats per minute. It should be around 65 beats at a resting heartbeat," he said.

When a person is undergoing trauma the pulse should be much faster, Yous added.

The soldier was placed in a truck with the air conditioner turned on while soldiers wiped her face with wet towels and shaded it with a desert camouflage uniform top.

When a helicopter arrived, a team carried her on a stretcher to the medical facility, officials said. A swirling storm of dust stirred up by the whirling rotors.

Yous said he believed heat was not the cause of the collapse.

Later, the soldier was diagnosed with bronchitis brought on by dust storms, officials said.

On Sunday, both Udairi Range and Camp Buehring were exposed to heavy dust storms that, at times, reduced visibility to a few feet.

— Seth Robson



A 2nd Forward Support Battalion soldier takes aim and fires at a target representing the driver of a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device at Udairi Range, Kuwait.

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Misawa commander cracking down on DUIs

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — For the second time this summer, Misawa's base commander is clamping down on those who drive under the influence of alcohol or behave recklessly behind the wheel.

The latest crack-down was ordered following the latest of several serious vehicle accidents involving young airmen.

Brig. Gen. Bill Rew, the 35th Fighter Wing and installation commander, is expected to sign a policy letter setting various penalties for those driving dangerously, said Col. Don Weckhorst, vice commander. The draft policy would implement the following penalties against drivers caught intoxicated or "under the influence" of alcohol, on or off base, according to blood-alcohol content:

■ A six-month suspension of

Rew hopes to curb drunk driving with tougher penalties

driving privileges for a BAC between .03 and .079; .03 is considered legally intoxicated in Japan.

■ A one-year suspension for a BAC between .08 and .149;

■ No driver's license for two years for a BAC over .15 or for someone who refuses a sobriety test.

Further, any military member stopped for drinking and driving, or driving recklessly, will be required to report to Rew's office at 7 a.m. the next duty day in service dress with his or her commander, first sergeant and immediate supervisor.

Also, anyone caught driving more than about 19 miles per hour over the posted speed limit or found to be driving recklessly will be walking for three months.

Reckless driving is defined as "willful and wanton disregard for

safety" of people or property.

Shortly before Rew took command of the 35th Fighter Wing in April, a 19-year-old sailor assigned to the base killed a Japanese national in a car crash. In May, a 19-year-old airman collided with a local driver, killing her, and in June, another airman seriously injured a local woman in an accident.

In late June, after the third serious wreck in as many months, Rew implored the base community to slow down and drive safely.



Rew

At that time, he announced "driving while intoxicated" - considered a BAC of .10 or higher - would result in a license suspension of one year.

But Americans assigned to Misawa still are mixing driving and alcohol. In June and July, seven people were busted for "driving while intoxicated," according to figures from 35th Security Forces Squadron, bringing the fiscal year-to-date total to 32, as of last week. In fiscal 2003, the DUI/DWI total was 22.

"A few of us are still not getting it," Rew says in this week's commander's update message, airing on Misawa American Forces Network radio and television.

"Some have continued to drive too fast, drive without insurance or drive while intoxicated," he says. "Our accident and DUI

rates are up and since my last message, we've sent another local Japanese citizen to the hospital seriously injured. Therefore, I'm making the penalties for these actions simpler but even more stringent than before."

The latest accident Rew refers to occurred July 23; a young airman hit a female Japanese motorcyclist head-on after attempting to pass on a hill, base officials said. Though serious, the woman's injuries were not believed to be life-threatening, officials said. Weckhorst said a slew of "major and minor vehicle accidents," not just DUIs or the latest serious wreck off-base, is prompting the tougher driving penalties.

"We're trying to draw attention to unsafe driving practices," he said.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@stripes.osd.mil

Yokota reading awards

The library at Yokota Air Base, Japan, is to host the Summer Reading Program Prize Award Party from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday at the Yujo Recreation Center. Prizes will be awarded for the most read within each age category. There will be a drawing for door prizes including a portable DVD player and digital camera.

Contact the Yokota library at DSN

225-7490 for more information.

Navy historical team in Sasebo

A team from the Naval Historical Center visited Amphibious Group One at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, last week to study the nature of the Navy's only forward-deployed expeditionary strike group.

"Normally, the Naval Historical Center is given raw data ... a chronological time

line of what happened," stated Cmdr. Doreen Fussman, from the Washington, D.C.-based center. "What we're trying to do is collect the human side of the story," she said in a Navy news report released Monday.

"It was interesting to hear some of the challenges facing the ESG concept" in the forward-deployed force, the center's Cmdr. Andrew Storch stated in the report.

Kids' baseball sign-up

Youths ages 13-15 can sign up to play baseball against a Japanese youth team at Yokota's Friendship Festival at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at Darling Field.

Youth Sports will accept the first 15 players who sign up by Tuesday at the East Youth Center. Call Fred McDaniels at DSN 225-7021 for more information.

From staff reports

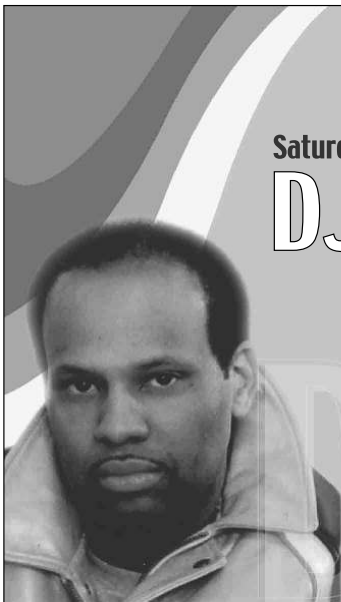
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Chalabis say warrants for their arrests are politically motivated

BY JAMIE TARABAY
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Ahmad Chalabi and his nephew Salem Chalabi said Monday that warrants issued for their arrests by Iraq's Central Criminal Court were part of a political conspiracy trumped up by former Saddam Hussein loyalists.

Ahmad Chalabi, a former Governing Council member with strong U.S. ties, was wanted in Iraq on counterfeiting charges, while Salem Chalabi, head of the special tribunal in charge of trying Saddam, faced an arrest warrant for murder, Iraq's chief investigator judge said Sunday.

Both men, who were abroad, strenuously denied the charges and attacked Judge Zuhair al-Maliky, the man who signed the warrants Saturday.

"He has consistently attempted to manipulate the justice system for political purposes," Ahmad Chalabi, who was on a visit in Iran, said in a statement Monday. Al-Maliky, he said, "is not a bona fide Iraqi judge but rather an unqualified person who was put in his position by the American occupation authorities."

Al-Maliky was in court Monday and could not be immediately reached for comment. He said Sunday that the two men should be arrested and questioned. "If there is enough evidence, they will be sent to trial," he said.

Salem Chalabi said the murder charge would play into the hands of former Baathist officials, including Saddam, who is facing trial for war crimes before the tribunal. "They can easily make allegations that this whole process is fraud because the director of the tribunal has all these charges against him. Initially I suspected that these charges were trumped up by Baathists," he said.

In Jordan on Monday, one of Saddam's lawyers called Salem Chalabi's arrest warrant "a victory" for the deposed Iraqi leader.

"We have said time and again that the court was illegal and illegitimate and now there's evidence for everyone: The court is headed by a murderer," said Ziad

al-Khasawneh, one of Saddam's defense lawyers. "It's a miracle from God to help Saddam Hussein."

The warrants accused Ahmad Chalabi of counterfeiting old Iraqi dinars, which were removed from circulation after the ouster of Saddam's regime last year.

Iraqi police backed by U.S. troops found counterfeit money along with old dinars during a raid on Chalabi's house in Baghdad in May, al-Maliky said. He apparently was mixing counterfeit and real money and changing the cash into new dinars on the street, the judge said.

"I can easily prove that these charges are untrue and I intend to defend myself and clear my name," Ahmad Chalabi said in a statement. He said he collected the false currency as part of his role as chairman of the Governing Council's finance committee.

"It is these samples that Iraqi police found when they illegally raided our offices last May," he said. The idea that I was involved in counterfeiting is ridiculous and the charges are being made for political purposes."

The accusation is not Ahmad Chalabi's first brush with legal problems. He is wanted in Jordan for a 1991 conviction in absentia for fraud in a banking scandal. He was sentenced to 22 years in jail, but has denied all allegations. There was no immediate reaction from the Jordanian government.

Salem Chalabi, named as a suspect in the June murder of Haidhem Fadil, director general of the finance ministry, said he'd met the man he was accused of having threatened over a real estate dispute.

"Allegedly, what I said was: 'If you don't stop investigating these properties, you won't stay in this position for long.' A couple of days later he was killed," Salem Chalabi said. "I don't have any recollection of meeting him. I've never been in his office. I don't own any properties in Iraq, I stay at a friend's house. These allegations, to say the least, are ludicrous."



COURTESY OF THE U.S. MARINES/AP

A Marine from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit participates in the fight against insurgents loyal to Muqtada al-Sadr on Thursday in the holy Shiite city of Najaf. The photo was made available on Monday.

Amid Najaf clashes, al-Sadr vows to fight to the death

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEDI
The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — A radical Shiite cleric vowed to fight to the death as his loyalists battled U.S. troops for a fifth straight day Monday, and bombings in Sunni regions outside Baghdad — including a failed attempt to assassinate a deputy governor — killed at least 10 Iraqis.

The fighting with Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia began to have economic fallout. Iraq's southern oil company stopped pumping oil to the southern city of Basra — where militiamen were controlling main streets — because of threats to infrastructure, an official with the company said.

About 1.8 million barrels per day, or 90 percent of Iraq's exports, move through Basra. Iraq's other outlet from the north to Turkey has been out of operation since early June, so a stoppage from Basra threatens to completely shut down the flow of Iraq's main money earner.

Explosions and gunfire were heard throughout the holy Shiite city of Najaf, south of the capital, the main scene of fighting between U.S. troops and the militiamen. As U.S. helicopters hovered overhead, troops tried to drive militiamen from a vast cemetery they have used as a base, and a U.S. tank rolled within 400

yards of Najaf's holiest site, the Imam Ali Shrine. Najaf's governor, Adnan Zulfari, gave U.S. forces permission to enter the shrine compound, which is in the militia's control, a senior U.S. military official said.

Seven militants were killed in Najaf since Sunday evening, an al-Sadr official said. The U.S. official estimated that 360 insurgents died in Najaf in the first four days of the battle, although al-Sadr's militia insists the toll has been far lower.

Five U.S. troops have been killed in Najaf and 19 wounded, according to the military. Najaf police chief Brig. Ghaili al-Jazairi said about 20 police have been killed in the violence since Thursday.

A British soldier was killed in fighting with militiamen in Basra on Monday, the Ministry of Defense said in London.

U.S. and Iraqi forces have been trying to rein in al-Sadr to prevent the current violence from expanding on the scale of a widespread revolt his militia launched in April, fighting for two months until a series of truces brought a relative calm.

Al-Sadr on Monday vowed to keep up the battle, rejecting calls a day earlier from interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi for the militiamen to stop fighting.

"I will continue fighting," al-Sadr told reporters. "I will remain in Najaf city until the last drop of my blood has been spilled."

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Bush aides: U.S. disrupted terror plans

Al-Qaida reportedly considered divers, boats for attack on New York

BY DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — White House officials are optimistic that the recent arrests of suspected terrorists and the seizure of detailed surveillance of financial buildings has undermined plans to attack the United States.

And they suggested, in television talk shows Sunday, some of the potential plots uncovered in the past week may have been part of a broader effort to strike the country before the November election.

"I certainly think that by our actions now that we have disrupted it," Frances Fragos Townsend, President Bush's homeland security adviser, said on "Fox News Sunday." "The question is, have we disrupted all of it or a part of it? And we're working through an investigation to uncover that."

But Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that based on the information he'd seen, he believes the Bush administration may have



Frances Fragos Townsend

overestimated the immediacy of the threat of an attack.

"I have not seen any hard evidence that there was an active moment that was contemplated in the very near term," Biden said Monday on NBC's "Today" show. "If there was a smoking gun that

said we know for certain that was going to occur, I didn't see it."

Also Monday, the FBI issued two nationwide bulletins saying Al-Qaida may attempt to launch attacks in U.S. cities using helicopters or rented limousines packed with explosives as weapons.

Terror operatives could attempt to hijack commercial, charter or tourist helicopter flights and use them in suicide attacks against buildings, parades or sporting events, said one of the intelligence bulletins obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

Helicopters and limousines could both help terrorists get closer to targeted buildings, the FBI warnings said. The warnings were sent Friday night by the FBI and the Homeland Security Department to 18,000 state and local law enforcement agencies, other government officials and private groups.

In cooperation with U.S. intelligence agencies, authorities in Pakistan and Britain have detained suspected al-Qaida operatives, while computer files uncovered

in Pakistan contained surveillance information of five prominent financial sites in New York, Washington and Newark, N.J. The administration issued a terror alert based on that information.

Townsend said it is not clear how much has been uncovered about a potential plot around the presidential election. "This certainly looks like it was a piece of it," she told CBS' "Face the Nation."

Besides the financial sites, counterterrorism officials have said other places have been mentioned as possible targets. Asked whether they included the Capitol and members of Congress, Townsend replied: "Yes, in the past and as part of this continuing threat stream."

Included in information obtained on three laptop computers and 51 discs seized in a July 24 raid in Pakistan were details of how al-Qaida operatives thought of using speed boats and divers to carry out attacks in New York harbor before the November election, "Time" magazine reported, quoting an unidentified U.S. law enforcement official.



Pervez Musharraf

Pakistan valued in war on terrorism

BY KEN GUGGENHEIM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pakistan has again proved it is the single most crucial player in the war on terror: the site of an al-Qaida ring that was targeting this country and led to the raising of the terror alert, and the nation whose cooperation is needed most to make arrests happen.

The commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks said it flatly: The role of Pakistan in the struggle against Islamic terrorism can't be overstated.

All this has many critics wondering if the Bush administration is pressing Pakistan hard enough to fight terror and extremism, or if a country wavering on the edge of chaos could be pushed to do more.

They worry the administration may be ignoring a time bomb — and a nuclear time bomb at that.

To assure Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's support on al-Qaida, they say, the administration hasn't pressed him enough on fighting nuclear proliferation. Nor has it pushed him on Pakistan's lack of democracy, its poor human rights record — or its extremist-teaching schools.

Some fear those factors could lead to turmoil in Pakistan resulting in America's worst nightmare: a hostile, nuclear-armed Islamic state.

For U.S. policy-makers, it's a dilemma: How far can they go in seeking changes in Pakistan without alienating Musharraf or driving his shaky government to the brink of collapse? "Our relationship with Pakistan is probably the most complex of that of any country," said California Rep. Tom Lantos, the top Democrat on the House International Relations Committee.

Pakistan has been seen as one of President Bush's successes.

The Sept. 11 commission described Musharraf's government as "the best hope for stability in Afghanistan." It also called on the United States to "make the difficult long-term commitment to the future of Pakistan."

But some analysts say those goals may be contradictory. That U.S. support for Musharraf may undermine America's long-term credibility in Pakistan.

Prosecutors in terror trial felt hindered by Washington

BY JOHN SOLOMON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Behind the scenes of the first major terror trial after Sept. 11, 2001, frontline prosecutors complained bitterly they had not received needed help from the Justice Department and were prevented from introducing some of their most dramatic evidence in the courtroom, internal memos show.

As a result, jurors in the trial of four men accused of operating a terror cell in Detroit never heard testimony from an Osama bin Laden lieutenant or saw video footage of European operatives casing U.S. landmarks. Prosecutors believed both would have connected the defendants to al-Qaida.

The department's terrorism unit "provided no help of any kind in this prosecution," the U.S. Attorney's office in Detroit wrote in one memo, claiming that superiors in Washington hindered the case and sent a lawyer who chose to play basketball rather than assist prosecutors at trial.

The Detroit case ended last summer with the convictions, hailed by the Bush administration, of three men who were accused of operating a sleeper terror cell that possessed plans for attacks around the world.

A fourth defendant was acquitted, however, and only two of the four men originally arrested were convicted of terrorism charges.

Now the convictions are in jeopardy because of an internal investigation into allegations that defense lawyers were denied evidence that could have helped them.

Whatever the outcome, internal documents obtained by The Associated Press and more than three dozen interviews with current and former officials detail how the differences between Washington and the field office kept important evidence from being shown to jurors.



Major New York City landmarks — including the Brooklyn Bridge, right, and the Manhattan bridge — were filmed by al-Qaida members in 1997 as they scouted the city for potential targets. The videotape, obtained by the Associated Press, was found by Spanish authorities after a 2002 raid of an al-Qaida cell in Madrid.

"We were butting heads vigorously with narrow-shouldered bureaucrats in Washington," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Convertino, the lead Detroit prosecutor. He now is under investigation by superiors in the capital.

There was a series of evidence, pieces of evidence, that we wanted to get into our trial that we were unable to do. Things that would have strengthened the case immeasurably, and made the case much stronger, exponentially," Convertino told the AP.

For instance, the FBI had learned before the trial that Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi, al-Qaida's training camp chief, told interrogators after his capture that bin Laden had authorized an attack on the Incirlik base in Turkey where U.S. military jets flew missions over Iraq for the past decade, Convertino said.

The interrogation was deemed important because the FBI found in the Detroit terror cell's apartment sketches of the same Turkish base, including flight patterns of U.S. jets. Al-Libi's testimony would have connected the Detroit defendants to a planned al-Qaida attack, Convertino said.

But, he said, al-Libi was "spirited off from Afghanistan to Egypt and we were not able to interview him or use him as a witness."

Justice officials declined comment, citing a partial gag order the trial judge has imposed in the Detroit case. But internal memos show Washington frequently criticized the Detroit prosecutors as "not adequately supervised" and providing "minimal" cooperation.

In another example, prosecutors obtained a videotape showing that an al-Qaida cell broken up by Spanish authorities in 2002 had video surveillance of the same American landmarks that were found on a video with the Detroit cell.

Prosecutors were told by superiors they could not introduce the Spanish tape unless they went through a lengthy bureaucratic process, known as the Letters Rogatory, that establishes chain of custody for foreign evidence.

With just weeks before the trial and no willingness in Washington to delay the trial, prosecutors abandoned the evidence, Convertino said.

Militant offshoots complicate war on terror

Small groups making their presence known with suicide bombings, taking of hostages

DONNA ABU-NASR

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — The emergence of small, little-known groups with ideologies like al-Qaida's has made the fight against terrorism a far more daunting task. Instead of targeting just al-Qaida, the West and its allies now face many "al-Qaidas," splinter groups that are mostly unrelated to each other but are bound by the same hatred of the West — especially the United States and its allies, including Israel.

The highly militant groups have struck around the world, carrying out suicide bombings in Morocco, kidnapping civilians in Iraq and attacking Western residential compounds in Saudi Arabia.

"It's like McDonald's giving out franchises," said Dia'a Rashwan, an Egyptian expert on militant groups. "All they have to do is follow the company's manual. They don't consult with headquarters every time they want to produce a meal."

A key conclusion in last month's Sept. 11 commission report said that even though Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida has been weakened, its imitators pose a "catastrophic threat" to the United States.

"The enemy is not just terrorism," said the report. "The catastrophic threat at this moment in history is more specific. It is the threat posed by Islamist terrorism — especially the al-Qaida

network, its affiliates and its ideology."

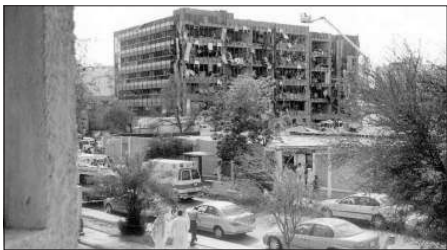
"The second enemy is gathering, and will menace Americans and American interests long after ... Bin Laden and his cohorts are killed or captured," the report said.

Two recent sweeps have dealt a further blow to bin Laden's network. At least 20 people have been detained in Pakistan in the past month, and Britain arrested more than a dozen men in raids this past week. British police on Thursday announced the arrest of another man, wanted in the United States for allegedly helping finance terrorist activity.

Yet bin Laden is still able to rattle the United States. That was highlighted Aug. 1, when Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge warned of possible terrorist attacks against "iconic" financial institutions in New York City, Washington and Newark, N.J. That is consistent with bin Laden's strategy of striking at U.S. financial targets.

The different "franchises" act under different names. For instance, the group behind last month's abduction of four Jordanians in Iraq called itself "Mujahideen of Iraq, the Group of Death." "Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula" is the umbrella group for militants active in the kingdom.

For the most part, the groups are believed to be independent. Although they don't consult each other, they sometimes imitate tactics that have proved successful and brought publicity to other groups.



The partially destroyed headquarters building of the general security services in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, is seen after a car bomb explosion April 21. Small, highly militant groups with ideologies like Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida are making the war on terror harder.

For instance, on March 31, Iraqi mobs dragged the burned corpses of four American contractors through the streets of the restive town of Fallujah. About a month later, four Saudi militants dragged the body of an American victim from the bumper of their car through the streets of the Saudi city of Yanbu.

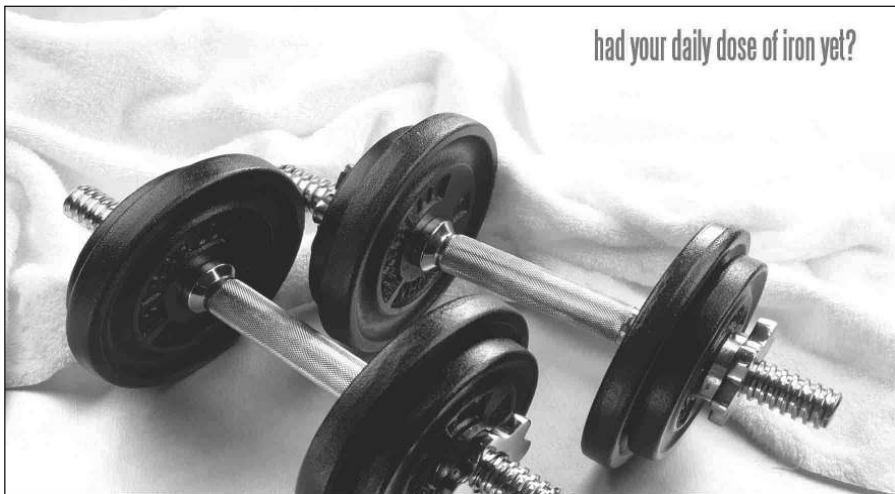
In recent months, more than 70 foreigners have been kidnapped by insurgents in Iraq in a campaign aimed at pushing out international troops and companies backing U.S. troops and reconstruction efforts. Several have been decapitated or shot. In June,

Saudi militants kidnapped an American engineer with Apache helicopter maker Lockheed Martin and beheaded him.

Experts say the pre-Sept. 11 al-Qaida is different from today's al-Qaida. In the past, the network operated more like an organization with a head and several well-known bin Laden aides.

"There's no central nervous system anymore," said Kevin Rosser, an analyst with the London-based Control Risks Group. "Al-Qaida is the kind of brand name that we're giving to Islamic extremists of all kind, whether or not they've got real connection to bin Laden or any of his associates."

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The Kunsan Grand Opening, June 16.

In the four hours open they broke their previous high sales day record. Normal sales for Kunsan is \$8,000 a day. On the 16th, in only four hours, sales were \$14,931.45.



Above- Sra Randy Pastian of the 8th OSS and Justin Wright of the 8th MXS, cruise the frozen food aisle of the new Kunsan AB commissary.

Right - TSgt Gerardo Fonseca was the winner of the first of eight mountain bikes donated by Dunham and Smith. Already the owner of two bicycles, TSgt Fonseca gave his prize bike to SrA Anna Rodriguez of PMEL.



Commissaries measure up in new customer satisfaction report

By Bonnie Powell
bonnie.powell@deca.mil

An independent index of customer satisfaction shows the commissary system more than measures up to commercial grocery stores. The latest American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) report gives the commissary system an overall customer satisfaction score of 76 compared to the industry average of 74 for commercial supermarkets. The ACSI score of 76 is higher than the 2002 score of 75, while the average score for commercial supermarkets overall fell slightly.

We feel that we offer our customers the best value when it comes to products, service and overall value," said Patrick B. Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. The ACSI score reinforces the excellent results of our own in-store Commissary Customer Satisfaction Survey and is a further indication that our customers really do appreciate the value of their commissary benefit.

ACSI research is an independent scientific effort — an outside source of customer satisfaction data for commissaries, exchanges and private sector industry. The index is an economic indicator that measures customer satisfaction based on customer surveys. Developed by the National

Quality Research Center at the University of Michigan Business School, the baseline index was first set in 1994. The ACSI has conducted customer satisfaction research for the Defense Commissary Agency and military exchanges since 2002.

ACSI data is based on the results of telephone interviews with participants who are randomly selected, then screened so only those that qualify as customers are asked about their shopping expectations, actual experience and satisfaction with store products, services and prices. Customer loyalty is also measured.

Since we sell high-quality name brand products at cost and deliver the best service to our customers we feel the positive trends will continue, said Scott Simpson, DeCA's chief operating officer.



We're also embarking on many customer initiative such as self-checkout, new wellness, low carb, and authentic international food sections in our commissaries. And, we've launched a new Savings You've Earned campaign that reinforces the message to all our active duty, Guard and Reserve, and retiree families that commissary savings of 30 percent or more is not only savings you deserve, but Savings You've Earned.





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IN THE WORLD

Steam leak at nuke plant in Japan kills 4

Seven hurt; 2 in critical condition as Koizumi vows investigation

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI

The Associated Press

MIHAMA, Japan — A non-radioactive steam leak killed four people and injured seven Monday in the worst-ever accident at a Japanese nuclear power plant, officials said. Two workers were reported in critical condition.

No radiation leaked during the incident, and there was no need to evacuate the area around the city of Mihama, about 200 miles west of Tokyo, officials said. Mihama's population is about 11,500.

The four dead suffered severe burns, said Takanori Amino, at the nearby Fukui state government office. Two workers had critical injuries, while three were in serious condition and two had minor injuries, a police official said on condition of anonymity.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi promised a thorough investigation of the accident, which follows a string of safety problems and attempted cover-ups at Japan's nuclear power plants, the source of 30 percent of Japan's electricity.

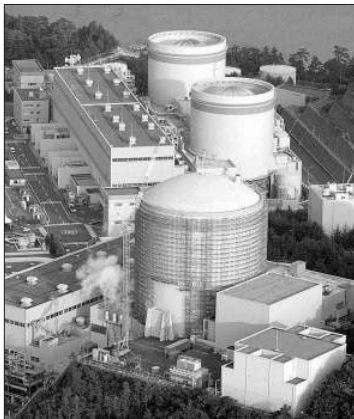
Worries about the safety of the country's 52 nuclear power plants have surged in recent

years. A 1999 radiation leak north-east of Tokyo killed two workers and exposed hundreds to radiation, and three years later an investigation revealed that Tokyo Electric Power, the world's largest private utility, systematically lied about cracks in its reactors during the 1980s and 1990s.

Underlining the safety concerns, a fire broke out Monday at a waste-disposal building next to another nuclear plant in western Japan. The fire was quickly extinguished by firefighters and there were no injuries or radioactive leakage, said Shimane prefectural government spokesman Minoru Nagao.

Monday's steam leak in Mihama was caused by a lack of cooling water in the reactor's turbine, said Kimihito Kawabata, a spokesman for plant operator Kansai Electric Power. The steam was believed to be 518 degrees. Yoshihiro Sugiura, a doctor at the Tsuruga City Hospital who treated the victims, said the dead "had stark white faces" — an effect of sudden exposure to extreme heat.

After the accident, Kansai Electric officials found a hole in a condenser pipe, public broadcaster NHK reported. It did not elabo-



Steam billows from the No. 3 reactor of the Mihama Nuclear Power Plant at Mihama, Japan, on Monday. A steam leak killed four people and injured seven others at the nuclear power plant 200 miles west of Tokyo, officials said.

rate on the size of the hole, which it said was believed to be the source of the problem.

Takahiro Seno, another spokesman for Kansai Electric Power, said the plant automatically shut down when steam began spewing from a leak in the turbine building area at the No. 3 nuclear reactor in Mihama.

The No. 3 reactor started operations 1976.

The Mihama plant's two other reactors were operating normally, officials said.

Koizumi expressed regret at the deaths, telling reporters that "we must put all our effort into determining the cause of the accident and to ensuring safety."

Sharon's proposed coalition hits a snag

BY MARK LAVIE

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Ariel Sharon, the hawk, and Shimon Peres, the dove, agree on Israel's need to pull out of Gaza, but an alliance between their two parties was held up Monday by a sharp disagreement over whether Israel should be a welfare state.

Coalition negotiations broke up over the 2005 state budget and welfare cuts. No further talks were scheduled, hinting at a crisis.

Sharon lost his parliamentary majority in June, alienating his right-wing constituency with his plan to pull all Israeli settlers out of Gaza and evacuate four small West Bank settlements.

Sharon, who spent decades expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, was forced to turn for support to Labor Party leader Peres, who favors giving up most of the territories in exchange for peace.

Peres said on Sunday that Sharon has accepted his main demands about the Gaza pullback, including a detailed timetable and the possibility of negotiating with the Palestinians.

The two parties are deeply divided on domestic issues as well.

Asian tourism recovers after SARS scare

BY DIRK BEVERIDGE

The Associated Press

HONG KONG — When SARS turned Hong Kong into a city of fear and tourists canceled bookings by the thousands, one top hotel sought business by offering discount packages — including free transportation in a Rolls-Royce.

Occupancy had plunged to less than 10 percent at the Peninsula, a legendary haunt of the rich and famous that was hit hard along with all Hong Kong hotels as SARS spread and the World Health Organization warned people to stay away.

Now that SARS is gone, the industry is recovering. The Peninsula was 70 percent full during the first half of 2004. Guests who want complimentary rides to and from the airport in one of the hotel's 14 Rolls-Royces must shell out at least \$720 per night for a suite.

"Things are really rebounding and we're doing very well," said Peninsula spokeswoman Sian Griffiths said.

Calling the SARS epidemic a nightmare for Asian tourism



Tourists check out the stunning view of the Angkor Wat temples outside Siem Reap, Cambodia, at sunrise. The travel industry is growing around Asia after making a strong recovery from its troubles brought on by last year's outbreak of SARS.

would be an understatement. Hotel occupancy fell into single digits. But those dark days — the worst month was May 2003 — are now just a bad memory. The industry is showing the healthy growth that has for years provided many nations in the region with needed cash and jobs.

"The rebound was very quick and it was a strong rebound," said John Koldowski, research chief at the Pacific Asia Travel Association, based in Bangkok.

Severe acute respiratory syn-

drome originated in mainland China's Guangdong province in late 2002 and began spreading through parts of Asia in February 2003 before it was contained in July of that year. Just a few isolated cases have emerged since.

At Vietnam's leading tour operator, SaigonTourist, business has recovered with an 85 percent increase during the first seven months of 2004 when compared with 2003. That almost brought the company back to its levels from 2002, said planning and marketing executive Nguyen Ngoc Thien.

Sudan agrees to take part in peace talks

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — The Sudanese government will take part in peace talks on violence in its western region of Darfur to be held in Nigeria later this month, Sudan's foreign minister said Monday.

Sudan's acceptance came a day after Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, in his capacity as African Union chairman, offered to host the talks to resolve what has been called the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Obasanjo invited the Sudanese government and rebel negotiators to hold talks in Nigeria starting Aug. 23, a spokesman for the African Union said.

"We welcome and will participate in the talks that were announced," Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafan Ismail told reporters in Cairo on Monday.

"We open the door wide to reach an agreement on the agenda and issues. We don't have conditions and we won't accept prior conditions."

Previous talks fell apart July

17 after rebels walked out, saying the Sudanese government had ignored existing peace agreements.

Ismail said they failed because of the rebels' "impossible and changing conditions."

The 18-month conflict began when black African factions in Darfur rose up against the Sudanese government, claiming discrimination in the distribution of the large, arid region's scarce resources.

Since then, Arab militias purportedly backed by the government have gone on a rampage, destroying villages, killing and raping.

As many as 30,000 people have been killed, and 1 million people have been forced to flee their homes.

The U.S. Congress and some humanitarian groups have accused Sudan of genocide, and a July 30 U.N. resolution has threatened economic and diplomatic action against Sudan if it doesn't act within 30 days to rein in the militias, known as Janjaweed.

Sudan denies backing the militias.

Nagasaki marks 59 years since atomic attack

Mayor calls on U.S. to stop developing nuclear weapons

By KENJI HALL

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Nagasaki's mayor warned Monday that new nuclear weapons the United States wants to develop would cause as much radiation contamination as the atomic bomb dropped on the southern Japanese city 59 years ago, as he marked the anniversary of the attack.

At the annual ceremony, Icho Itō recounted how tens of thousands perished in the World War II bombing of Nagasaki and said many victims continue to suffer.

"The 'mini-nukes' that the United States is trying to develop possess terrible power, despite their smaller size. The radiation destruction they would cause is no different from that of the bomb dropped on Nagasaki," Itō told thousands gathered at the city's Peace Park.

It said Washington must scrap its nuclear arsenal before the world can be free of nuclear weapons. He urged Americans to face the "terrifying reality" that the bomb's victims have lived with since the attack.

"It's clear that as long as the world's most powerful country continues to rely on nuclear weapons, other countries can't pursue nuclear non-proliferation," he said in a nationally broadcast speech. "Of humankind's right to survive the only path left for us is the abolition of nuclear weapons."

Washington has had a self-imposed ban on nuclear testing



since 1992. But it has conducted so-called subcritical nuclear weapons testing — which detaches bomb-grade plutonium but stops short of full-fledged nuclear blasts — since 1997. In June, U.S. lawmakers approved spending for research into nuclear warheads that would set off smaller explosions or destroy underground targets.

It pointed to the U.N. International Court of Justice's 1996 advisory ruling for nuclear disarmament and the abolishment of nuclear arms. However, the court's 15 judges were divided over

whether to consider the threat or use of nuclear weapons illegal.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday reiterated Japan's policy banning the production, possession and transport of nuclear weapons within its borders.

"Our country won't change that stance," Koizumi said, echoing his remarks Friday on the anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing in Hiroshima.

Koizumi also vowed to continue pressing for more nations to ratify a nuclear non-proliferation pact and the Comprehensive Test



KYODO NEWS/AP photos

Above: People gather Monday in front of the Statue of Peace during a ceremony at Nagasaki Peace Park in Nagasaki, Japan, to mark the 59th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing over the city. Far left: Prayers attend a mass at a Nagasaki church. Left: Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi prepares to lay a wreath during the ceremony at Nagasaki Peace Park.



Ban Treaty (CTBT), which would ban nuclear arms testing and most developing new weapons almost impossible.

At the ceremony, officials placed chrysanthemum wreaths at the foot of a peace statue. At-

tendees then observed a minute of silence as a bell tolled at 11:02 a.m. — the minute the B-29 bomber Bock's Car dropped the bomb dubbed "Fat Man" on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945. About 70,000 people were killed in the explosion.

Hiroshima had been bombed three days earlier, killing or wounding 160,000 people. On Aug. 15, 1945, Japan's surrender ended World War II.

Australian baby found safe

MELBOURNE, Australia — An ambulance crew responding to an anonymous call found a 3-week-old baby girl in a rundown house Monday, two days after she was snatched from her mother at a Melbourne shopping mall.

Two suspects in the kidnapping of Patricia Barbara later turned themselves in at a police station in Ballarat, a town outside Melbourne.

The child's mother, 27-year-old Anita Ciano, said the baby was "just perfect" after the ordeal — though her head had been shaved.

"It's as if your heart is put back in your body and you just... you're a mum once again," Ciano said. "She has been fed and she's just beautiful."

The baby was kidnapped Saturday. A man and a woman said to be in their mid-30s attacked Ciano with pepper spray in a mall parking lot and snatched her child.

Prisoners return to India

WAGAH, India — Cheering crowds and tearful relatives Monday welcomed home two Indian soldiers who spent five years in a Pakistani jail, part of a prisoner exchange that follows a thaw in relations between the two hostile South Asian neighbors.

Hundreds of people gathered at the border post at Wagah to greet the men as they walked across no man's land.

Jageer Singh and Mohammed Arif of

the Indian army were caught by authorities there when they inadvertently strayed into Pakistani territory in September 1999 while removing land mines from the mountainous Kargil region on India's side of the border.

U.S. to seek WWII crash sites

MOSCOW — A team of U.S. investigators was heading to Russia's Kamchatka peninsula on Monday to search for at least four sites where authorities believe American military planes crashed during World War II.

The visit to the rugged, volcano-pocked region in northeastern Russia is part of a worldwide effort by the U.S. Defense Department to account for missing U.S. servicemen and repatriate their remains when possible.

Americans hope to examine four and possibly as many as six sites where American-made planes are believed to have crashed after being shot down by Japanese forces or suffering mechanical problems, said James Shonborn, a Pentagon official who is leading the team.

U.S. sailors rescue cargo crew

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S. Navy sailors have rescued the 12-member crew of an Indonesian-flagged cargo ship that sank in the northern Arabian Gulf, the Navy said Monday.

Sailors from the USS Seattle, the Navy's largest combat logistics ship, took four crew

members off the deck of Edna II by helicopter Sunday. Eight others were rescued from a life raft already in the water, the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet said in a news release.

The Navy did not disclose the nationalities of the rescued crew.

The 12 rescued sailors were taken to the Seattle for medical treatment and will remain aboard pending repatriation, the Navy said, adding that the cause of the Edna II's sinking was unknown.

The USS Seattle is part of the USS John F. Kennedy Strike Group currently operating in the Arabian Gulf.

India to adopt 'Sesame Street'

NEW DELHI — The U.S. government will spend \$500,000 to design an Indian version of the popular American children's TV show "Sesame Street" to help preschoolers here enjoy learning, the U.S. Embassy announced Monday.

The U.S. Agency for International Development grant was made to Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind the TV show, to help it design an Indian version, with a specially created Indian Muppet, one of the puppet-like characters on the show.

The Indian show will be adapted for radio listening, so it can reach rural preschool children with no access to television, the embassy said. One focus will be to encourage girls to attend school and be treated equitably, the embassy said.

'Deepest vertical drop' found

ZAGREB, Croatia — Cave explorers discovered a pit inside a mountain range in central Croatia believed to have the world's deepest subterranean vertical drop, at over 1,600 feet, a scientific institute reported Monday.

The cave, in Croatia's mountainous Velebit region, has a steady, weaving drop of 203 feet before it takes a direct vertical plunge of 1,693 feet through the ground, said Ana Sutlovic Bakisic, a researcher at the Velebit Speleological Society.

"We have even bigger caves in Croatia, but according to available data, this cave has the world's deepest vertical drop," Sutlovic Bakisic said.

Pakistan detains militant

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan has detained a top Kashmiri militant leader said to be a friend of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, officials said Monday, while a raid in the eastern city of Lahore led to the arrests of two Turkish citizens and an African.

It was not immediately clear what prompted authorities to conduct the raids in Lahore and whether the men had any links with any terrorist group. In less than a month, Pakistan has arrested about 20 terror suspects, including Ahmed Khalifa Chailani, a Tanzanian who had a \$25 million bounty on his head for his role in the 1998 bombing of U.S. embassies in east Africa.

From wire reports

IN THE STATES

Nichols gets 161 life terms in '95 bombing

BY TIM TALLEY
The Associated Press

McALESTER, Okla. — Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols was sentenced Monday to life without the possibility of parole for his role in the worst act of domestic terrorism in U.S. history. Addressing a court for the first time, he read a statement citing God and asking forgiveness.

"My heart truly goes out to all the victims and survivors and to everyone who was affected by the Oklahoma City bombing," Nichols said. "Words cannot adequately express the sorrow I have felt over the years for the grief they have all suffered."

Cites God, seeks forgiveness in Oklahoma City blast

District Judge Steven Taylor ordered Nichols to serve the life term on each of 161 counts of first-degree murder and that the sentences run consecutively.

Nichols had already been sentenced to life without parole in 1998 on federal bombing charges; Monday's sentence was on the state murder counts. Nichols was spared the death penalty on the state counts when jurors could not agree on a sentence.

Nichols, 49, never testified during his state and federal trials and said nothing

after he was convicted in federal court. Monday he asked for forgiveness, asked "everyone to acknowledge God."

But Taylor called Nichols a "terrorist." "Your criminal acts in this case are historic in proportion," Taylor said. "No American citizen has ever brought this kind of devastation, you are in U.S. history the No. 1 mass murderer in all of U.S. history. What could motivate you to do this? There are no answers."

Nichols received 10 years and a \$5,000

fine for a conspiracy count; 35 years and a \$25,000 fine for first-degree arson and was ordered to pay \$5 million in restitution and \$10,000 per count to a victims compensation fund, as well as legal fees.

Nichols was convicted on federal involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy charges for the deaths of eight federal law enforcement officers who were among the 168 victims killed during the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The state charges were for the other 160 victims and one victim's fetus.

Four men charged with grisly Fla. killings denied bond

BY MIKE BRANOM
The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida — A dispute over clothes and a video game system between a young woman and a squatter in her grandparents' house apparently sparked the vicious beating and stabbing murders of six people whose bodies were found late last week in a blood-spattered home, police said.

Troy Victorino, 27; Robert Cannon, 18; Jerone Hunter, 18; and

Michael Salas, 18, are charged with first-degree murder and armed burglary. The teens confessed shortly after they were arrested Saturday, authorities said.

At a hearing Monday attended by some relatives of the victims, all four men were denied bond and had public defenders appointed for them.

Police said the attack was the brutal culmination of an argument between Victorino, an ex-convict, and one of the victims, who is believed to be Erin

Belanger, 22. She was singled out for a beating so vicious that even dental records were useless in trying to identify her.

Belanger's grandparents, from Maine, own a winter home in Deltona, between Orlando and Daytona Beach, which was supposed to be vacant this summer, but police said Victorino and other squatters used it in July as a party spot.

Joe Abshire, Belanger's brother-in-law, said she had talked to him last Sunday about heading to the vacant house to go swimming

one day and finding about six people living there. But the squatters were kicked out, but the Xbox video game system and clothes were left behind. Belanger took the items back to the three-bedroom rental home she shared with friends.

The squatters warned Belanger that "they were going to come back there and beat her with a baseball bat when she was sleeping," Abshire told The Sun of Lowell, Mass.

All four suspects were arrested

with aluminum bats when Victorino kicked in the locked front door, according to arrest records. The group, who wore black clothes and had scarves on their faces, grabbed knives inside and attacked victims, authorities said.

Victorino, the last to leave the house, took the Xbox, police said.

Left behind were the bodies of Belanger, Michelle Nathan, 19; Anthony Vega, 34; Roberto "Tito" Gonzalez, 26, who recently moved from New York; Belanger's boyfriend, Francisco Ayo Roman, 30; and Jonathan Gleason, 18.

Saturday, August 21 from 1500 to 2100

Negishi Community Center Parking Lot
Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Yokohama Detachment

Join the Negishi Community for this open-base event that showcases the traditional Buddhist "Bon" celebration honoring Japanese ancestors. Live entertainment includes Nii Symisen Ren, United States Air Force "Pacific Trends" Band, Hongo Ohayashi Musical Team, Taiko Drum performance, Awa Odori Folk Dancing, Bon Odori Folk Dancing and Sagami Dragon Drummer performance. Vendor booths offer food and beverages, toys, cotton candy, children's games and air toys, too.

Negishi
Thirty Ninth Annual
Bon Odori
Festival



Illegal immigrants found in truck trailer

Driver jailed after police found 79 people in his rig during traffic stop in Fort Worth, Texas

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — A trucker was jailed after 79 illegal immigrants were found in the unventilated trailer of his 18-wheeler during a traffic stop, the second such discovery in the area in three weeks.

Alvin Auxter, 52, was stopped Sunday morning on Interstate 20 at Interstate 820 in southwest Fort Worth. He was held on suspicion of human smuggling and was to appear Monday in federal

court, police and Border Patrol officials said.

The 53-foot-long truck was carrying the immigrants to Dallas from the border city of El Paso, authorities said.

The trailer was unventilated and hot, but the people inside had drinking water and appeared to be in good shape, said city police officer Otto Janke, who stopped the truck for an inspection.

Outside temperatures at the time of the traffic stop were in the upper 70s.

"I wasn't expecting to see a whole truckload of people," Janke said. "Nobody inside was making a sound. At first, I thought it was 15, 20, maybe 30 people. It was just packed."

On July 18, 26 men and four women were found inside a tractor-trailer. The 20 Brazilians and 10 Mexicans were headed to Fort Worth. Two drivers were to appear in federal court Monday.

State Trooper John Forrest, who stopped the truck on July 18 as well as the one Sunday, said

Auxter's vehicle did not display required state identification numbers and had no information identifying a trucking company.

"Anybody doing commercial vehicle enforcement who saw this truck would have stopped it," Forrest said. "It may as well have had a big red sign saying 'Pull me over.' This guy was set up exclusively to transport people."

Auxter also had no valid driver's license, just a state identification card, officers said.

Meanwhile, five illegal immi-

grants died after crossing the border into southern Arizona's treacherous desert and authorities searched Monday for a sixth.

"We're hoping to find him or her alive," said Andy Adame, a spokesman for the Border Patrol's Tucson Sector, which covers most of the Arizona-Mexico border.

Two adults and two juveniles survived. They and the other six had become stranded in the rugged terrain Sunday after crossing the border. Temperatures soared over 100 degrees.

Gorilla uses sign language to call for a dentist

BY BILEN MESFIN

The Associated Press

WOODSIDE, Calif. — When Koko the gorilla uses the American Sign Language gesture for pain and pointed to her mouth, 12 specialists, including three dentists, sprang into action.

The result? Her first full medical examination in 20 years, an extracted tooth and a clean bill of health.

About a month ago, Koko, a 300-plus-pound ape who became famous for mastering more than 1,000 words, began telling her handlers at the Gorilla Foundation in Woodside she was in pain. They quickly constructed a pain chart, offering Koko a scale from one to 10.

When Koko started pointing to nine or 10 too often, a dental appointment was made. And because anesthesia would be involved, her handlers used the opportunity to give Koko a head-to-toe exam.

"She's quite articulate," volunteer Johnpaul Slater said.

"She'll tell us how bad she's feeling, how bad the pain is. It looked like it was time to do something."

Twelve specialists — a Stanford cardiologist, three anesthesiologists, three dentists, an ear and throat specialist, two veterinarians, a gastroenterologist and a gynecologist — volunteered to help.

"It's not often that we get to work on a celebrity," said Dr. David Liang, assistant professor of medicine at Stanford.

"Probably, Koko is less demanding."

The team came to Koko on Sunday, bringing portable X-ray and ultrasound machines. They set up shop at her "apartment," which looks like a remodeled box car, complete with a makeshift toilet, television, DVD player and a lot of toys.

After four hours of tests — in-

cluding a colonoscopy, gynecological exam, dental work, X-rays, and ultrasounds — doctors pronounced her fit.

Koko, who celebrated her 33rd birthday July 4, was due for a checkup. While gorillas in captivity are known to live into their 50s, they are susceptible to heart disease and a thickening of the arteries.

Koko and Ndume, her partner of 11 years (he doesn't "speak"), have been trying unsuccessfully to have a baby, and the doctors thought the checkup could let them know whether she had any biological problems preventing it. She doesn't.

Her teacher, Francine Patterson, was at her side when the anesthesiologist prepared to put her under in the morning, and apparently Koko asked to meet her specialists.

They crowded around her, and Koko, who plays favorites, asked one woman wearing red to come



Koko, the 230-pound gorilla who converses in sign language, cuddles a kitten in 1985. Koko received a clean bill of health after a full medical examination on Saturday.

closer. The woman handed her a business card, which Koko promptly ate.

Otherwise, Koko was calm, Liang said.

The Gorilla Foundation has studied gorilla intelligence by teaching American Sign Language to Koko and another gorilla, Michael, who died in 2000.

Denver voters to determine future of circus visits

BY CATHERINE TSAI

The Associated Press

DENVER — Fifteen-year-old Heather Herman, who wears leather and eats meat, is an unlikely animal rights activist. Yet largely due to her, Denver voters will decide this week whether to allow the circus to come to town.

Herman contends the animals aren't meant to travel the country caged or in train cars, performing for audiences on cue. Her push to petition for a law ensuring abuse-free circuses started just pasting out leaflets took some supporters by surprise.

"I guess you get jaded when you get older," said Ashley Solder, formerly of Rocky Mountain Animal Defense and now with Denver for Cruelty-Free Circuses. "Her enthusiasm was contagious."

Herman, a high school sophomore, said she attended circuses as a child but recently became concerned about the treatment of animals.

She created a group, Youth Opposed to Animal Acts, started a petition and collected enough signatures to put the question on Tuesday's ballot.

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has been performing in Denver since 1919, and the city's Barnum neighborhood is named after circus founder P.T. Barnum, who bought 760 acres here in 1882 as a winter respite for his show.

"There's a big difference between traveling animals and having a permanent facility. If animals are going to be in captivity, humans should strive to give animals a habitat that's more like their native ones."

Heather Herman

Animal rights activist



Heather Herman, 15, promotes an initiative to limit the use of exotic animals in circuses appearing in the city of Denver. The initiative is on the primary election ballot on Tuesday.

The circus has found itself the repeated target of lawsuits and criticism from animal rights groups. The circus' parent company, Feld Entertainment, maintains Herman's initiative would strip the heart of its shows, and that notions of mistreatment of animals are misguided.

"We've certainly been a favorite target of the animal rights crowd," said Tom Albert, vice president of government relations for Feld.

Herman and about 30 to 50 volunteers have raised close to \$47,000 from the likes of the U.S. Humane Society and have earned an endorsement from wildlife biologist Jane Goodall.

Meanwhile, Feld Entertainment has donated \$175,000 to the Keep the Circus in Denver Committee to oppose her. The committee includes City Council members, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and others.

"I had no idea it would be this controversial," Herman said from her mother's home, where campaign signs are stacked in the living room. She dropped band last year so she could focus on campaigning.

Herman's proposal would allow educational exhibits like the Denver Zoo and the National Western Stock Show, but stock show CEO Pat Grant still opposes the measure, saying the circus is wholesome family entertainment. He said that if the circus goes, the stock show will be next.

"That's crazy," said Herman. "There's a big difference between traveling animals and having a permanent facility. If animals are going to be in captivity, humans should strive to give animals a habitat that's more like their native ones."

Bush seeks bump Kerry didn't get

By RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the spotlight on his candidacy, Sen. John Kerry improved public perception of his character and qualifications but failed to shake-up the presidential race.

Now, the focus shifts to President Bush — and all his hurdles to re-election.

The Iraq war, which many American voters think was a mistake.

■ The economy, which a slight majority of voters don't trust with the Republican.

■ The direction of the country, which most voters think is heading south.

The tough job of changing those perceptions began the moment Kerry left his nominating convention. While in Boston, a heavy emphasis on the Democrats' sterling war record impressed male voters, according to an Associated Press poll, improving his ratings on honesty, integrity, likability and even Bush's strongest issue — the ability to protect the country.

But the bottom line did not change. Kerry and running mate John Edwards are essentially tied with Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney in the AP-Ipsos Public Affairs national poll. In two key swing states, Florida and New Hampshire, the Democratic ticket has opened up leads, according to the American Research Group.

Still, the president's advisers said they were relieved by post-convention polls, offering braced defenses for party-wide panic and Kerry managed to open up a significant lead in national surveys.

"If you would have told me that we'd be tied and coming out of it, that I would have said 'you're drunk or insane,'" Bush strategist Matthew Dowd said. "Then I would have said, 'I'll take it!'"

Kerry's team spin up the other way, saying the little room for gains because so many voters have already taken sides. "When we looked at the polls, we said, 'Great news. We moved the numbers we needed to move,'" Kerry spokeswoman Debra DeShong said.

According to the AP-Ipsos poll, 59 percent of registered voters believe the country is on the wrong track (compared with 56 percent in July), only 46 percent approve of Bush's handling of the economy (compared with 49 percent in July) and half believe it was a mistake to go into Iraq (up from 40 percent in April).

Bush is seen as stronger and more decisive than Kerry, but the Democrats is considered smarter, more honest and less stubborn, according to the AP-Ipsos poll.

Among independents, Kerry gained on Bush on the issues of optimism, inspiration and values, according to the poll. Bush's handling of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey.

■ Bush and his political team contend that Kerry made two mistakes at his convention, and they vow now to repeat them.

■ Kerry and his surrogates didn't criticize Bush enough.

There was relatively little talk about Kerry's policies, though the Democrat has enough proposals to literally fill a book.

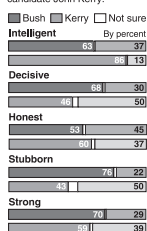
Bush and his allies won't be shy about going negative against Kerry during the Aug. 30-Sept. 2 convention. White House advisers said. The president also will outline a second-term agenda, including some new initiatives that will be rolled out before, during or after the New York convention.

Bush has lost the race. Republicans with tough-on-terrorism talk and images de-

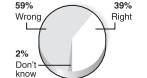
AP POLL

Shaping perceptions

In a poll, 708 registered voters were asked whether each of the following adjectives described President Bush and presidential candidate John Kerry.



Are things in this country heading in the right direction?



NOTE: Survey conducted Aug. 5-6 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Figures may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Ipsos-AP/Annenberg for AP

signed to rekindle memories of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when his response sent his approval ratings soaring.

His advisers say the tactic also will peel away some of the swing voters who moved to Kerry in July and tend to be influenced by the latest big event. Then tens to favor Bush over Kerry, thus the president could win back some of those voters.

Bush's latest television ads use warm-and-fuzzy images to tout his fight against terrorism while alluding to a miser future.

In another attempt to reach voters in the political middle, Bush is filling his convention agenda with moderate Republicans, such as former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, as well as maverick Arizona Sen. John McCain, who remains popular with independents.

"It's probably too late to convince voters for a second time that he is a different kind of Republican," said Democratic strategist Jim Jordan, a former Bush adviser who now runs an independent group airing ads critical of Bush. "But, for the first time since inauguration, is he making gestures to the middle?"

It will be hard for Bush to persuade undecided voters to change their minds about him, after nearly four years in office.

But it might not be any easier for Kerry to convince those same voters that change is necessary, and worth the risk, at a time of war.

RNC is huge hassle for N.Y. City homeless

By SAM DOLNICK

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — J.W. Ballantine, a 77-year-old homeless man, already sleeps most nights in Penn Station and eats many of his meals in neighborhood soup kitchens.

But Ballantine's life is about to get much harder now that the Republican National Convention is coming to Madison Square Garden, directly on top of the train station where he usually sleeps.

Ballantine and hundreds of other homeless people like him will be moved out from Aug. 30 to Sept. 2 by the convention — where President Bush will be officially nominated to run for re-election — can take place.

Security is already high in New York City, and homeless people worry that even tougher convention security will force them to the city's fringes — far from outreach workers trying to help them.

It's hard to say precisely how many homeless people sleep in midtown Manhattan, but a food pantry on West 31st Street serves 500 people a week. The Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen feeds roughly 1,200 people every day.

Beginning the week of the convention, police will close down much of the area around the convention site, allowing pedestrians only if they can prove they have business in the area.

The Bread of Life Program, a food pantry, has already announced that it will close during the convention. The program will not open on Sept. 1, the Wednesday of the convention. The pantry instead will provide its clients with extra food the week before.

Homeless people would be the largest in the city, will remain open, and Rev. Elizabeth Maxwell of Holy Apostles Church said she will issue identification cards to volunteers and homeless people.

Homeless people's concern that the city will attempt to "make the city pretty for the visitors" and sweep the homeless people away.

Kerry courts the Southwest

By MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, on the western leg of a coast-to-coast campaign tour, courted Hispanic and Native American voters in states that he hopes can give him a winning edge.

Kerry talked about health care, education and tribal rights during whistle-stops in New Mexico and Arizona. His wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, sometimes added a few words in Spanish to the delight of the crowds.

Kicking off a late-night rally, Kerry pledged to invest in Native American health care before a crowd gathered in a Heritage Square.

"If there's anything that sort of represents the fallen agenda and the confrontation with the truth in America, which is what elections are supposed to be about, it is that we're happening to Native Americans in this country, still," Kerry said.

The western trek marks the second visit of the Democrat's supporters to battleground states from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The trip to Arizona is Kerry's third since the Democratic prima-

ry, evidence of a close battle with President Bush for Arizona's 10 electoral votes. Bush plans to campaign in New Mexico and Arizona with Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a day after Kerry's visit.

Recent polls show Arizona tilts slightly in Bush's favor, but Kerry's campaign said the growth in the state's Hispanic population could help shift the balance toward the Democrats.

The Democrats want to spend \$600 million over five years on park maintenance, staffing and programs. The spending would be paid for with increased fees imposed on companies that buy mineral-rich government property or extract minerals from publicly owned lands.

Kerry's program for parks includes more stringent enforcement of clean air and water regulations, as well as a promise not to contract national parks jobs to outside vendors.

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Avoid fraud at Web auctions

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Internet auction services are a hot way to buy and sell almost anything. They're also increasingly an avenue that creative con artists use to defraud users.

Last year, consumers logged 301,835 complaints of fraud with the Federal Trade Commission. Of those, 15 percent dealt with losses from Internet auctions, and its victims cited total losses of about \$200 million, or an average loss of \$195 a person.

The Internet is still a good place to shop, but there are some simple things you can do to avoid getting defrauded. Look at the listing carefully. Are there mistakes in spelling or grammar? Does the description of the item contain inaccuracies? Research the item for sale to ensure you don't overbid.

Check the user's feedback rating. While advanced scams can be perpetrated by third parties using a respected buyer or seller's ID (without that person's

knowledge), most often you can tell by the ratings how the user treats his business partners.

Use a method of payment that protects both buyer and seller from fraud. If you pay via credit card, the company can back you up if there are problems with the transaction. You might also sign up for a free account with PayPal at www.paypal.com. The online payment service offers fraud protection for up to \$500, and you can send payment from a credit card or your bank account.

If you use an escrow service for big-ticket items such as cars or heirloom jewelry, choose a firm that is nationally known. Don't rely on a seller's recommendation. Check with the American Escrow Association's Web site at www.a-e.org for more tips on finding a good service.

If you're the seller, make sure the buyer's payment clears before you send out the item. Ten days is a safe time period. Be wary of sellers who offer to make a deal apart from the site.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Aug. 9)	138.00
S. Korean won (Aug. 7)	1,155.00
Euro	1.25
British pound	1.60

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	4,378.00
Bangladesh (Taka)	1,131.00
Canada (Dollar)	1.25
China (Yuan)	8.27
Egypt (Pound)	2.56
India (Rupee)	47.91
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.99
Hungary (Forint)	206.66
Iceland (Krona)	79.95
Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,534.00
Japan (Yen)	110.36
Malaysia (Ringgit)	3.40
Norway (Krone)	6.90
Philippines (Peso)	54.81
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1,274.00
Singapore (Dollar)	1.25
S. Korea (Won)	1,155.00
Taiwan (New Taiwan)	113.63
Thailand (Baht)	54.81
Turkey (Lira)	1,470,580.00

Source: Reuters. Exchange rates are available to customers at military banking facilities. The dollar is represented in Japanese, South Korea, Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates, see www.fbi.gov (for Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when the dollar is not the currency of the currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars and the euro, which is in euros.

New York Merc	
Gold	\$399.90
Silver	\$8.70

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc	
Gold	\$399.90
Silver	\$8.70

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	
Prime rate	4.25
3-month T-bill	3.00
6-month T-bill	3.00
Federal funds market rate	1.00
1-year T-bill	3.00
3-year bond	5.00
10-year bond	5.00
30-year bond	5.00
Source: Bloomberg	

FACES 'N' PLACES

Topless tennis, anyone?

A Russian tennis star has filed a lawsuit against GQ magazine, claiming GQ allowed topless photographs of her to appear in a Russian magazine without her permission.

Anastasia Myskina, winner of this year's French Open, is suing GQ and its photographer, saying she never intended for two photos of her appearing shirtless to be published, her attorney said Saturday. The lawsuit was filed Friday in Manhattan federal court.

The photos in question were taken by photographer Mark Seliger while he shot pictures for a spread in the October 2002 edition of GQ. One approved photo of her fully clothed was published along with a profile of the tennis player.

The topless pictures were published in the July/August 2004 issue of Medved magazine. Seliger had an unlisted telephone number and did not immediately respond to an e-mail for comment.



Myskina

"The Boss" breaks political hearts

Minnesota's Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty said he's "heartbroken" that Bruce Springsteen plans to rock against President Bush.

Opening his weekly radio show Friday with "Born to Run," the 43-year-old Pawlenty called Springsteen one of his musical idols.

"I really appreciate his music, but I wish he wouldn't inject his music with politics," said Pawlenty, co-chairman of Bush's re-election campaign in the state.

Springsteen and R.E.M. will perform Oct. 5 at St. Paul's Xcel Energy Center as part of a series of concerts being staged in nine swing states to oppose Bush's re-election.

The money generated will go to America Coming Together, a group dedicated to defeating Bush. The shows will be presented by MoveOn Pac, the electoral arm of the liberal interest group MoveOn.org.

Cosby to help organize Mass. rally

Entertainer Bill Cosby plans to meet with community leaders in Springfield, Mass., and police later this month to help organize a rally against street violence.

Cosby, who has a home in rural Shelburne, about 50 miles northwest of Springfield, made his remarks following a ceremony Thursday at the Basketball Hall of Fame honoring 14 young women who overcame obstacles to graduate from high school and attend college.

Cosby, whose son, Ennis, was murdered in 1997 while changing a tire on the Los Angeles freeway, met after the ceremony with the family of Darrell and Daylan Shepard, 19-year-old twins killed in separate Springfield shootings in May and July.

Cosby criticized authorities for not doing more to curb street violence, but the police chief said cutbacks have left her department short-staffed. Since May, the city of 160,000 has had nine murders. Arrests have been made in six of the slayings.



Cosby

Governor sheds weight, does 'People'

The newly trim Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is to be featured in next month's issue of People magazine, revealing the one thing he previously had refused to tell: his weight.

The 5'-11" Huckabee, who has campaigned for physical fitness since losing 105 pounds over the last year, told the magazine he previously weighed 280 pounds.

The 48-year-old governor went on a diet-and-exercise program after learning he had diabetes. He recently ran his first 5K race.

The Aug. 16 magazine article includes a photo of Huckabee holding a pair of pants he wore when he was hefty. He tells the magazine he "ate too much and exercised too little, simple as that."

The governor said he always had problems with his weight. It wasn't until he was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes that he got serious about weight loss.

Huckabee will also appear Friday morning on CBS' "The Early Show" to tell his story.



Will Ferrell and Christina Applegate star in Dreamworks Pictures' comedy "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy." Ferrell's character, is a shining example of the disingenuous stereotypes many people hold about TV news personalities.

KRT

Lumbering clown the news

'Anchorman' capitalizes on unflattering stereotypes of TV personalities

BY DOUGLAS J. ROWE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Will Ferrell's title character in "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy" is faced with serious female colleague for the first time. Diversity is the reason, he's told.

But he thinks diversity is the name of an old wooden ship from the Civil War.

A San Diego anchorman in the 1970s, Burgundy is the latest in a line of Hollywood anchormen dating back to Ted Baxter of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" (1970-77) who by turns are pompous, vain, vacuous and living by the slogan: Sincerity — once you can fake that, the world is yours.

Since Baxter (the name of Burgundy's dog, by the way) we've seen Jim Dial of "Murphy Brown," Bill McNeil in "NewsRadio" and three cartoon favorites: Brock Brockman of "The Simpsons," Tom Tucker of "The Family Guy" and Morbo the alien in "Futurama."

"Saturday Night Live" has long lampooned anchors on its "Weekend Update." And Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" has won a Peabody for its nightly sendup of newscasts.

The comic, unflattering characterization of anchorman recurs for several reasons, according to pop-culture observers and media mavens: They're authority figures.

"Kind of like dads in sitcoms," laughed Jill Geisler, the first woman in the United States to become the news director of a major-market network affiliate.

"It's why very seldom principals of schools or heads of universities are presented in a good way," said Syracuse University's Robert Thompson, citing Dean Wormer in "Animal House" as a classic example.

Dave Tolchinsky, an associate professor of radio-TV film at Northwestern University, thinks viewers are often wondering about the sincerity of the anchor's emotions on camera.

"The movie 'Broadcast News' made a big deal out of the fact that the William Hurt character should 'pretend' to cry," he recalled. "Now I think most people assume that an-

chorpeople are faking it — faking the emotion, faking the chatter and lively banter. ..." He noted that Jim Carrey's "Bruce Almighty" echoes "Broadcast News" but with a slightly different spin. Ultimately, it's Bruce's refreshing honesty that sets him apart from the anchors.

One of Tolchinsky's colleagues at Northwestern, Chuck Kleinhans, suggested that women escape the same Hollywood rap as anchormen because it's generally assumed they had to work harder than a man to achieve the same level of success. Thus Christina Applegate's character in "Anchorman" is ambitious and capable.

As unvarying as the comic depictions of the men have been, you might think they're based on truth.

Well, they are — to some extent.

People in TV news admit they've known a Ron Burgundy, but they maintain that such types are anomalies who quickly disappear.

Ferrell, the film's co-screenwriter who consulted with at least five local anchormen across the country for his role, agreed.

"If anything, what we discovered was actually the opposite of what we depicted in the movie," he said.

"These guys ... were very educated, very smart guys who really took pride in what they did." But there are a few who conform to the stereotype, as Phil Breen, a telecommunications professor at Ball State University, can attest.

He worked in the '70s at a station where the producer liked to let the anchor lead his own special flair to the teases right before a commercial break to entice viewers to stay tuned.

"Instead of scripting a tease, the producer would ask the anchor to rough out a few words himself," Breen remembered.

Showing the anchor where he needed to do this was a page that was blank except for the simple instruction, "Tease more news."

"Sure enough, one night the anchor breezed right through his page on the air. In his most authoritative tones, he told the viewers: 'Tease more news.' Then, barely missing a beat after he realized what he had done, he authoritatively added, 'We'll have that story in a moment.'"

Fictional flubs

A sampling of fictional anchormen says:

■ "In order for the bill to be passed, it has to be ratified by two-thirds of the 48 states ... (looks off camera, sees a crewman holding up two fingers)

... Oh, two more, huh? Correction, that's four-thirds!" — Ted Baxter on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"

■ "I've said it before and I'll say it again. Democracy doesn't work. Now, over the years, a newsmen learns a number of things that, for one reason or another, he just cannot report. It doesn't seem to matter now, so ... the following people are gay ..." — Brock Brockman of "The Simpsons"

■ "Because of an accident today at the Quabog cable company, all television transmission will be out for an undetermined amount of time. Of course, no one can see this news program, so it doesn't really matter what we say. I'm the lord Jesus Christ. I think I'll go get drunk and beat up some midgits ..." — Tom Tucker of "The Family Guy"

Fish scam uncovered

ME PORTLAND — There was something fishy about Kimberley Gordon's offers to sell lobster and other seafood at discount prices, police said.

The 25-year-old woman accused of bilking scores of customers in several Greater Portland communities has been indicted on charges of theft.

Police said Gordon operated her one-woman scam by taking orders, collecting money and promising to return an hour or two later with the seafood, which never arrived.

More than 100 employees at office buildings, hospitals and car dealerships were duped over a period of several months, according to law enforcement officials.

Scarborough police arrested her and charged her with eight counts of theft and violation of bail conditions.

Animals cause crashes

CA ATLANTA — Deer, cows and even squirrels are to blame for more than 26,000 injuries along U.S. roads each year, the government said Thursday.

In half of the animal-related accidents, motorists are injured by hitting the animal, while the other half are injured by swerving to avoid hitting the animals, said Ann Dellinger of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's motor vehicle injury prevention team.

Each year, about 200 people die in car crashes with animals.

There were 247,000 crashes involving animals in 2000, the latest data available, the CDC said.

The CDC could not say if the number of car-animal accidents are on the rise. They typically happen on rural roads or highways.

Although nearly nine out of 10 such accidents involve deer, the CDC's crash study also found cows, squirrels, bears, dogs and raccoons were involved.

Gun toter shoots self

OK BRISTOW — Drew Patterson wanted to protect himself after hearing reports of a fugitive in his northeastern Oklahoma community.

He didn't think he would be nursing a sore rear end.

Aware of an escaped prisoner lurking about, Patterson tucked a .22-caliber pistol into the waistband of his denim shorts. But he left the hammer pulled back, and soon enough the gun went off, shooting the 27-year-old in the left buttock.

Patterson said he walked into his parents' home and told his mother: "I did something bad."

Doctors told him to keep walking to avoid complications as the wound healed.

"It hurts fiercely now," he said, walking slowly and gingerly.

Turtles carry disease

WI Federal health officials and several states are meeting to stop a recent surge in the illegal sale of small pet turtles, banned since the 1970s because of the risk of salmonella infection that are especially dangerous to young children.

The turtles, most often a variety called red-eared sliders, have

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

turned up in recent months at malls and gift shops in popular vacation spots in Wisconsin, South Carolina, Kansas, Arizona and Texas.

Officials in Wisconsin said they had taken action against a half-dozen shops around the state and were working with federal officials to find the distributors.

The problem came to light after a 4-year-old Kansas girl was sickened with salmonella bacteria that officials think she got from three turtles her mother bought while on vacation in Wisconsin.

About 80,000 cases are reported each year, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Asleep on the job

VA ALEXANDRIA — Police responding to a 911 call from a resident of an assisted-living home said they found three caregivers at the home asleep while a hospice patient lay helpless on the floor.

The call came into Alexandria's emergency communications center from the Sunrise Senior Living home.

Police responded, but the after-hours call button, telephone calls and their cruiser sirens could not get the attention of caregivers inside. Eventually, the officers gained entry through an unlocked side door.

The hospice patient was calling out for help after falling out of bed. Another resident was having trouble with a catheter and had

called 911 out of frustration.

City and state officials, as well as long-term care advocates, have begun investigations. Two Sunrise employees were fired because of the incident, said city spokesman Barbara Gordon.

Manure rules OK'd

CA DIAMOND BAR — Southern California's smog-fighting agency went after emissions of the bovine variety, adopting the nation's first rules to reduce air pollution from dairy cow manure.

The measure, which will be phased in beginning Dec. 1, applies to more than 300 dairies in the Chino area, which is considered to have the highest concentration of dairy cows in the nation.

Roughly 300,000 cows in dairies east of Los Angeles produce a million tons of manure each year.

The new regulation requires dairies with at least 50 cows to remove manure from corrals more frequently and send it to a composting facility or an agricultural area where it is approved for use as a fertilizer.

It is expected to cost the industry about \$3.5 million a year, or about \$15,000 per dairy, air quality officials said. By 2010, the regulation is expected to reduce ammonia emissions by more than three tons per day and cut down on other pollutants as well.

Stone throwers jailed

NV LAS VEGAS — Four teens described as members of an affluent gang that terrorized a neighborhood last summer were sentenced Friday to a year each in the county jail.

The alleged members of the "311 Boys" gang, who drew national attention after video surfaced of the youths beating each other, had pleaded no contest to one count each of battery with a deadly weapon, which carries a maximum 15-year prison sentence.

Prosecutors agreed to drop more serious charges, including attempted murder, for the teens' alleged role in a rock attack that maimed another Las Vegas teenager last summer.

Those sentenced Friday were Christopher Farley, 19; Jeff Hart, 18; Matthew Costello, 18; and Steven Gazley, 19.

The judge suspended prison sentences for the four teens, opting for jail time and three to five years of probation, including a year of house arrest.

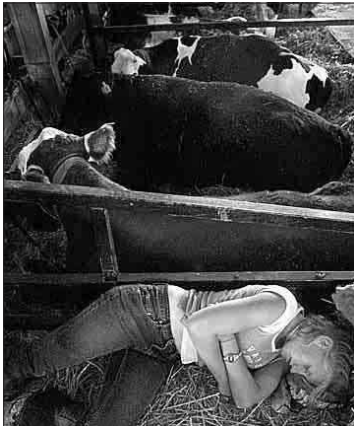
Attacking pit bulls killed

TX CORPUS CHRISTI — A meter reader attacked by two mixed-breed pit bulls fought them off, killing one of the animals by holding his knee to the dog's throat. The other was shot dead by police.

Scott Rousslang, 24, was treated and released from a Corpus Christi hospital with bandages covering more than 20 bite marks on his hands, arms and legs.

Rousslang was attacked when he jumped a fence to read a water meter Thursday morning.

Police are investigating the incident and said they didn't know if charges would be filed against the dogs' owners.



Moooove over, I'm tired Anne Henrichs, 14, of Watford, Wis., naps on a bed of hay in the livestock barn at the Racine County Fair in Union Grove, Wis.



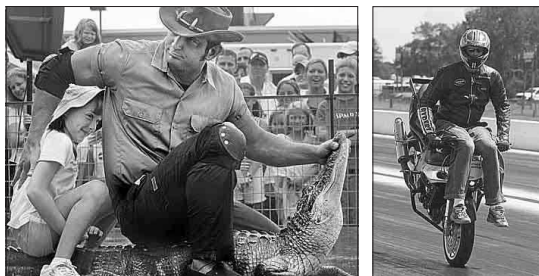
Oh, fiddle sticks From left, Sarah Gasper, Katie Tran, Raven Biotic and Daniel Settle play the violins at Jazz Improv For Strings Camp at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, Ark.



Sandy matrimony Melissa Burbank and Michael McClary of Vermont are married at Banzai Pipeline beach on Oahu's north shore with the Rev. Kermit Rydell performing the ceremony in Hawaii.



Looking for action Ryan Finnegan, 7, of Topeka, Kan., watches other players scrimmage while waiting to play in a Future Pros Hockey Camp in Kansas City, Mo.



Gator aide Bert Lucas from the Kachunga Alligator Show works with a volunteer from the audience, AnnaMaire Boue, 8, on the opening day at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus, Ohio.



Tube dudes Sousaphone players Steven Briant, left, and Ray Nason find their instruments make great headrests during a break in practice at the Mighty Sailor Marching Band Camp in Sarasota, Fla.

Ex-death-row con charged

IL CHICAGO — A death row inmate pardoned when former Gov. George Ryan cleared death row in 2003 was charged with drug and gun violations. It was his third arrest since being released from prison.

Aaron Patterson, 40, called the new charges "a farce." His attorney suggested they were a backlash to Patterson's lawsuit alleging police tortured him into a false confession in 1986 that landed him on death row.

According to the U.S. attorney's office, Patterson and another man tried to sell heroin to a government informant four times. Patterson had served 17 years for a double murder conviction when Ryan pardoned him and three other inmates during a dramatic emptying of death row in his final days in office.

Ryan also commuted sentences of 167 death-row inmates to life in prison and issued a moratorium on executions because of flaws in the state's capital punishment system.

House cleared of vermin

NY CANDOR — This small community got some relief Thursday as bulldozers and dump trucks hauled away more than 20 loads of trash and waste from a vermin-infested house that had been the subject of complaints for decades.

Exterminators set poisoned traps in an attempt to kill more than 1,000 rats on the property owned by Thelma Roe. The court-ordered actions came after more than a year of code violations.

Candor Code Enforcement Officer James Douglas said the home, 57 miles south of Syracuse, was deemed uninhabitable and will keep that designation until it's cleaned and the rats are exterminated.

Douglas said it appeared the home's inhabitants, the late Carl Overbaugh, had been living in a single room. Neighbors said the house did not have utilities and electricity for more than 25 years.

Douglas said he will monitor the house until an agreement is reached with the owner.

Harmful algae afloat

OH TOLEDO — A slimy green algae that can sicken and kill fish and birds has made an early return to Lake Erie this summer.

Researchers say they began spotting the algae in western Lake Erie near Toledo in early July, which is about a month earlier than normal.

The algae, called microcystis, feeds off phosphorus that comes from farm animal waste, sewage plants and household items such as laundry detergent. It's carried into the lake by storm water, rivers and animals.

The algae is harmful mainly to wildlife. Dog owners are warned not to allow pets to drink out of water where the algae is floating.

People can suffer from diarrhea or vomiting if they swallow large amounts of untreated water containing high levels of the algae. But the large clumps of the algae usually are enough to keep people away from it.

Researchers aren't sure why

the algae is out early this summer.

The algae grows best in warm, shallow water when fed phosphorus, a common farm nutrient.

The U.S. Senate last year authorized \$2 million to study algae blooms in the Great Lakes.

Coaches file lawsuit

NY NEW YORK — Four coaches filed in the wake of a sexual assault scandal at a Long Island high school have reportedly filed a \$20 million lawsuit against three of the boys involved in the scandal and their parents.

The suit alleges the boys' parents should have known their sons were "prone to acts of violence and demonstrated a vicious and dangerous propensity to commit assault and battery upon others."

Four players on the Mepham High School football team were charged with sexually assaulting teammates at a residential training camp in Preston Park, Pa., with sticks, golf balls and pine cones.

In March, a Wayne County, Pa., grand jury criticized the five coaches who accompanied the team to the camp, but it found no basis for filing criminal charges against them. The grand jury, however, cited "clear evidence that the coaches displayed a lack of commonsense accountability" in running the camp.

The coaches insist they had no knowledge the attacks were taking place and didn't learn of the allegations until days after returning to Long Island.

Boxer-clad prisoner bolts

CO DENVER — A federal prisoner escaped from a transport van in Denver on Aug. 3, sprinting from the arrest trailer, pulling a gun from a deputy.

Police and U.S. marshals swarmed the area searching for Joseph John Belleville, but the man, who was last seen wearing only a pair of white boxer shorts, managed to evade capture.

The incident happened as a van carrying three inmates back to a penitentiary slowed while merging onto an interstate. Belleville opened the side sliding door and began to climb from the van.

A deputy tried to stop Belleville, but after trying to take the deputy's gun, Belleville sprinted from the area, disrobing as he ran.

Rotting bear found

AK A fourth brown bear was reported dead and left to rot last week near a popular bear-watching and fishing stream along the northern border of Alaska's Katmai National Park and Preserve as rangers continued an investigation into a series of bizarre and apparently illegal kills.

The front claws had been cut from at least two of the no animals, including a mature female that had been actively nursing, said pilot and bear-viewing guide Ken Day, who discovered and reported the first three carcasses to the National Park Service last week.

"It's a terrible thing when you see these beautiful creatures that just want to leave you alone — and for somebody to come over there and do a cold-blooded killing," he said.

Stories and photos from wire reports

Unwanted goods make unique outdoor art

Former schoolteacher makes small Wash. town a tourist attraction with quirky sculptures

BY NANCY BARTLEY

The Seattle Times

CENTRALIA, Wash. — Wheels spin. Steel spikes stab the sky, and bright plastic balls float above Richard Tracy's sprawling outdoor art gallery, where sculptures shaped like monsters, dogs and humans have been crafted from the most unlikely objects — tomato cages, Styrofoam blocks and roller skates.

Although many in this conservative blue-collar community consider Tracy's Flash Gordon-meets-Vincent Price style of art as an eyesore spread over three full lots, it's through his 20-year project that the former schoolteacher who prefers to be known as "Richard" is earning his city of 15,000 national recognition.

Over the past few years, his unrestrained collection has been added to Web sites about quirky roadside attractions, included in books on a similar theme and compared to Los Angeles' Watts Tower — once considered junk, now priceless folk art.

But what really extended Richard's — and Centralia, Wash.'s — visibility outside the Northwest was his starring role in a 23-minute independent film documentary, which since 2001 has played in well over 100 venues worldwide.

Today, the effusive 70-year-old with a penchant for gleaming art from trash and seeing unique worlds in glass reflections has done what the city hoped its carefully preserved downtown and picturesque countryside would do: lure visitors to Centralia.

The tourists come specifically to Richard's pretty neighborhood of craftsman houses and flower gardens, where those who live next door have grown accustomed to cars with out-of-state license plates and strangers of all types pouring in and out of his



KRT photos

Richard Tracy, who prefers to be known as 'Richard,' sits in his outdoor art gallery. He's wearing one of his unusual bike helmets, an homage to the annual Seattle-to-Portland bike race, which goes past his home in Centralia, Wash. He creates a new helmet each year.

fenced fortress.

Down at City Hall, City Clerk Deena Bildeaux said she answers calls from out-of-towners wanting to know how to get in touch "with that guy with the art in his yard," and routinely gives out Richard's phone number and address.

Ask most anyone in the city and they'll know exactly the place you mean — the corner lot on Harrison Avenue and M Street.

And who doesn't have an anecdote about the eccentric guy seen eyeing the discards by your garbage can: a teacart, wheel-bases of chairs, roller skates? Sometimes he gets calls from people offering him material, like a 4-foot-wide Styrofoam mushroom.

Richard turned that down. He does have standards.

In 2001, experimental-film directors Vanessa Renwick and Dawn Smallman of Portland spent a year filming Richard after hearing about him from a friend who had seen the house.

"He is really incredibly talented as an artist," Renwick said. "He is able to see things in stuff we look at as crap."

Using his yard as a classroom, Richard teaches visitors about art and lets them create, using his materials and providing they follow his rules: No talking and arrive punctually for a 55-minute, \$5 class.

When the film, titled "Richard," played at the Centralia Olympic Club in April, he and his wife, Pat Tracy, attended and sold the intricate collages he makes in his basement. About 150 people attended, many getting their first good look at the man behind the growing tourist attraction that's variously known as art yard, art farm and Richard's Ruins.

At the center of it all, largely hidden from view, is a turn-of-the-century house where Richard and Pat raised their two sons and now spend time with their three grandchildren.

Richard and his younger sister grew up in Yakima,

brought up by their divorced mother. Passionate about art, he studied it at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, where he got a teaching certificate and met his wife.

Richard taught a few years in the Yakima, Sequim and Olympia school districts and finally took a job in Centralia, working in the hardware department of Yardbirds. The lone souvenir of the 30 years he spent at the defunct discount store is a giant, fake mynah bird, which he has in a corner of his yard.

About 35 years ago, Richard was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, which led to a brief stay at Western State Hospital. It's a condition he manages, one he says has been both a challenge and an inspiration in his work.

Twenty years ago, he met Dick Elliott, creator of a colorful folk-art house in Ellensburg called Dick and Jane's Spot. That prompted Richard to begin his own life's work.

Elliott refers to Richard's yard as the "most important art site in the Northwest," saying "art without restraints is really rare."

Today, it reflects a sense of decay as rain, wind and sun wear down the Styrofoam and wood, rust metals and fade plastic. That only makes the pieces more interesting, Richard believes, seeing

himself as a partner with nature. "To create art, you have to be exposed," Richard said as he gave a tour of the yard. "It means to be vulnerable."

Suddenly he stopped, as he frequently does when art appears before him. "Look," he said with excitement, pointing out a simple reflection in the window of a nearby parked car.

If Richard sees beauty all around him, the same can't be said of his neighbors. Over the years, he's invited them to tour his property but says they won't come.

Neighbor Alex Nunn objects mainly to the traffic.

"People drive down the street and people stop in the middle of the street," said Nunn, who has lived across from Richard since 1936. "I don't mind looking at the stuff as long as I don't have to get close to it."

Another neighbor built a 10-foot fence, higher than most city codes allow for such fixtures. But as far as City Hall is concerned, "it's legal if it surrounds me," Richard said.

When Beatrice Estrada moved in across the street, she thought she was moving across from a museum, not noticing the front door of a family home peeking through all those spikes, signs and kinetic sculptures.

For the past 48 years, Richard's wife has good-naturedly accepted her husband's obsession.

Also a teacher, she said the interior of their home displays some of his pieces, but he leaves most outside — like a helmet topped with a spinning lawn aerator, made specially for when he rides

from Centralia to Chehalis during the \$800-930-a-day Seattle-to-Portland bike ride, which passes his house every July.

He makes a new helmet each year for the entertainment of the riders because "Seattle people are way too serious when they come through here."

Richard enjoys creating and visiting with people who drop by. "Now that he's retired, it gives him a sense of direction," his wife said, though she admits he "does go a bit overboard with it."

He loves the time of day when the sun is high and the shapes around him are sharply defined.

"Look!" he said, as the sharp light of noon shined down on an old piece of wood. Where others may have seen a series of conks, or nothing much at all, Richard saw a necklace. "Isn't that beautiful?"



Some neighbors consider Richard Tracy's 20-year project an eyesore, but it has brought a steady stream of admirers to the small town of Centralia, Wash.

ma, Wash.,

Over the past few years, [Richard's] collection has been added to Web sites about quirky roadside attractions, included in books on a similar theme and compared to Los Angeles' Watts Tower.

Lights, cameras and action in New York

Scouts search for the perfect film location

BY JULIAN KESNER
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — For someone who just spent many hours wading through trash, Len Murach is surprisingly happy about it.

"I never thought in my life I'd be climbing around on top of garbage barges," says the 34-year-old Manhattan resident. "Not everybody gets to do that. It's just as much fun as it is work."

And it's all part of the job. Murach is a film location scout. His task is to find the perfect spots to shoot movies, television shows and commercials around the city. And sometimes that means getting a little dirty.

"We try to find a canvas for what becomes the set," says Carla Raji, who just arranged for a Harlem block to be a location for "Tru Blu," starring Denzel Washington and Benicio Del Toro. The film takes place in the 1970s, which made her task all the more challenging.

Filming in the Big Apple adds \$5 billion annually to the city's economy, according to the Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting. In the office, issued film permits for 180 movies and 40,000 different locations in the five boroughs, a 45 percent increase compared to 2002.

Location managers are spending much of their time driving around every corner of the city, in search of the perfect church, high-rise, park or warehouse.

"When you're looking for it, you realize what this city has to offer," says Murach, an 11-year veteran who now works with TV's "CSI: New York."

"You get to see all these phenomenal little gems scattered throughout the city," Times Square, Central Park and the Brooklyn Bridge are among the



Above: Frank Covino, location manager for the television show "Law & Order: SVU," sizes up the scene in Times Square. Right: Carla Raji, a scout for movies filmed in New York City, is the location manager for the upcoming movie "Tru Blu," starring Denzel Washington and Benicio Del Toro.

most commonly used spots for filming, though every scout has favorites. Murach loves the arches beneath the Riverside Drive bridge and the Pierre Hotel penthouse.

Frank Covino, an assistant location manager on the rival cop drama "Law & Order: SVU," likes Roosevelt Island's Coler Goldwater Hospital, where a vacant wing without disturbing patients or doctors.

When scouts need a rural backdrop, they take the ferry to Staten Island, where the Jack Black flick "School of Rock" was made, at Wagner College, as well as the St.

George Theatre and the Cargo Cafe in St. George. "I tell people, and they say, 'That was a New York movie,'" says Rob Striem, the film's location manager. "Staten Island had so much great stuff."

"You wouldn't know you're 10 minutes outside of Manhattan," says Covino. "It has a lot of different looks."

The city office provides free film permits, tax incentives and free security through the NYPD Movie/TV Unit. On occasion, the police even step in front of the camera. "A lot of cops have their Screen Actors Guild cards," says Murach.

When shooting begins, location managers become personal liaisons between film crews and residents. There's one universal issue: "It always comes down to parking," says Raji. "New Yorkers are very territorial."

Sometimes the duration of a shoot weans thin on everyone. Striem recently picked out the SoHo apartment used in "Unfaithful" for Diane Lane's character's adulterous trysts.

"When 35 days of the movie is shot in the left, you worry you're going to beat the crap out of this neighborhood," he says. "We overstayed our welcome in SoHo at



times, but I think by and large it went incredibly well."

Production companies often make donations to community organizations as thanks for letting them use a street or park for a scene. At the end of the day, location managers are New Yorkers, too, and not about to forget it.

"We all feel a great responsibility to preserve and respect our city, that's the most important thing to all of us," says Striem. "We just go around spending Hollywood's money all over New York. What more can you ask for?"

Filming takes place nearly every day in New York City, but it isn't easy for gamblers to find the sets and celebs.

That's where Radioman and his hotline come to the rescue. Radioman, aka Craig Schwartz, has been showing up on sets every day for years. "I guess he's the go-to homeless guy on a bike," Len Murach says with a laugh. The nickname "Radioman" is derived from the portable stereo hung around his neck.

The SAC-card-toting bicyclist has been credited in about a dozen movies (sometimes under the alias Craig Castaldo), including "Zoolander," "Elf" and "Godzilla."

U.S. physicists try to rescue sounds from the past

BY GLENDA CHUI
Knight Ridder Newspapers

SAN JOSE, Calif. — No one has heard Thomas Edison's first recordings since they were made on fragile scraps of tinfoil. No one has heard Queen Victoria's voice since she died. And no one listening to the only known recording of President John F. Kennedy's assassination has been able to say just how many shots were fired.

Now physicists at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory may have a way to rescue those sounds from the deterioration of time, allowing them to be heard as never before. It also could offer a way to quickly restore and digitize millions of old recordings — from Dixieland jazz to field recordings of folk music and radio newscasts from World War II — making them widely available for the first time.

The researchers make microscopic images of the grooves that etch the sound into a wax cylinders or phonograph record. Then

a computer turns the wiggles, bumps and ridges into a digital soundtrack, subtracting the scratches and hisses to let the true, clear voice come through.

The technology was developed to capture the fleeting tracks of quarks and other particles in giant accelerators. It is the brainchild of Carl Haber and Vitaliy Fadeyev, physicists at Lawrence Berkeley who make instruments for detecting subatomic particles.

Four years ago, they heard a report on National Public Radio about the fragile state of old recordings in the Library of Congress. Of the 2.5 million recordings in the library's collection, 1.5 million are on wax cylinders or discs, which are especially vulnerable to damage.

The report got the physicists thinking: What if they could analyze the recordings the same way they track particles, examining them with a digital video recorder that is guided by a computer? "You could figure out what shape the groove in a record is,

and then analyze it optically instead of playing it," Haber said. "There are damaged and delicate cylinders and discs they just don't want to touch anymore. If you could read them without touching, you might be able to bring them back."

Haber said researchers from a number of fields have already contacted the team to see if they can help rescue old recordings. A linguist wants to hear the century-old voices of the Yurok Indians. Another scholar longs to hear the voice of Bertrand Russell.

Then there is Thomas Edison's earliest recordings, most of which are in the hands of private collectors. They were made on pieces of tin foil wrapped around cylinders, said Sam Brylawski head of the recorded sound section at the Library of Congress. Once a piece of foil was removed from its cylinder, it could not be played again. So these tin snippets have not been heard by anyone since.

The National Archives also has asked

Haber and Fadeyev to look at the possibility of analyzing a Dictaphone belt that is the only known recording of the assassination of President Kennedy. It was made by an open microphone on a police motorcycle in Kennedy's motorcade, which fed sound into a Dictaphone at police headquarters.

"I've heard the Kennedy tape. It's very hard to hear anything," Haber said. If the shots are obscured by noise in the background or from the police radio, "there's nothing we're going to be able to do about it," he said. "That's genuine audio."

But if the problem is from damage to the belt itself, he said, the method may be able to clear it up. "It's a maybe," Haber said. "I refuse to oversell the technology — in physics, or in whatever we do." The Berkeley scanner can pick up details as small as one-50th the width of a hair. Then the computer automatically analyzes the images; it recognizes scratches and bits of dust, removes them and smooths over the gap by patching it with sound from either side. The effect is stunning.

OPINION

Cold War model is history for terror war ...

BY THOMAS H. HENRIKSEN

The publication of the 9/11 Commission's report provides an opportunity to reflect not just on the lack of preparedness for the history-altering terrorist attacks but also on the realities of the post-Cold War world.

The nearly 600-page report from the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States paints a disturbing picture of a government largely unprepared for the suicide assaults on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. But what it points to in the future is even more chilling. The report reminds us that Osama bin Laden and his fellow extremists are cold-blooded fanatics and that no negotiations, compromise or appeasement will placate them.

The 9/11 commission report will be debated and discussed for some time to come, helping us to better understand the vast challenges we face. Perhaps it, along with the daily news from Baghdad, will at least cold water on the assumption that we are in another fledgling Cold War-like struggle. The

current anti-terrorism campaign is not about deterrence, containment or chesslike moves on a global board.

Historical analogies are instructive. Munich and Vietnam still hold lessons about appeasement and protracted conflicts in peripheral areas. The battle against Islamic fundamentalist terrorism is not another Cold War, however. Yes, it will drag on for decades, like the Cold War, and resemble aspects similar to the Soviet standoff. Public diplomacy — how America spreads its message of hope, democracy and tolerance to the world — will certainly be rekindled. Our anti-terrorism struggle will necessitate alliances and occasional cooperation with unsavory regimes — all aspects of the former East-West rivalry — but it is not analogous.

The doctrine of pre-emption, of striking before being attacked, is a fundamentally different concept than the Cold War restraint and is here to stay no matter who wins the presidential election in November.

With American civilians and soldiers dying by jihadi bullets and

beheadings, clearly we are in a hot war, not the old, icy standoff with Moscow.

Although the degree of pre-emptive attack should be weighed soberly, terrorism cannot be prevented by defensive measures. No White House occupant can simply react to events. Nuclear and biological weapons in terrorist hands can kill far too many people for a reactive posture; jihad upends the former challenge-and-response formula. A glacially paced strategic response born of Cold War thinking will not cool the fires of jihad.

We may not engage in another ambitious Iraq war or even an Afghanistan intervention. America has already scaled down to smaller pre-emptive actions from these two major counterterrorism ventures.

The United States is opening bare-bones bases from which to launch pre-emptive attacks. Special Forces teams have been deployed in a globe-spanning belt stretching from Latin America and the Philippines through Central Asia, East Africa, and the Maghreb (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia) to train local forces to battle terror.



Future strategies to nip terrorist plots in the bud might include surgical airstrikes, cloak-and-dagger operations, and even smash-and-dash commando raids to take out nuclear facilities or

eliminate terrorist camps. The old Cold War business as usual is over and so should be the analogous thinking.

Thomas H. Heniksen is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, a Stanford, Calif.-based think tank.

... so any U.S. plans to aid Mideast reform fit well

BY NEIL HICKS

Reformers in the Middle East are caught in a tight bind. On principle, they oppose the high-handedness of U.S. policy in the region. But they have to admit it's had some positive effects.

Not only has President Bush gotten rid of Saddam Hussein, the region's most brutal dictator, but his relentless promotion of democracy in the Middle East has also turned up the heat on other regional autocrats and jump-started the reform debate. These days, no Arab government can afford to simply grow increasingly persistent and widespread demands for reform.

Ibrahim Eissa, a young Egyptian satirical novelist, was one of the first to have broken what is almost a public taboo in Egypt and the Arab world: He spoke well of Bush at a conference on reform in the Middle East. Eissa was willing to state a truth that few liberals in the West or in the Arab world will acknowledge: "Every Arab government is hoping for the defeat of George Bush." Authoritarian Arab leaders, he noted, would love to see a return to the pre-9/11 days when the United States turned a blind eye to the undemocratic practices of its regional allies.

But failing that, governments are having to pay heed to reformers. Take the case of Egypt. After decades of simply dismissing calls by nongovernmental organizations for change in government policies, President Hosni Mubarak in March addressed a major conference on Arab reform convened by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria. His speech was not revolutionary, but he did embrace reform as long as it was not in response to foreign pressure and was at a pace suited to Egypt. Since Alexandria, there has been a flurry of conferences on reform in the Arab world, including a summit meeting of the Arab League. All have endorsed change, though with varying time lines.

Some, like the more cautious agenda proposed in the Alexandria conference's declaration, emphasize that political reform "should not be at the expense of pressing regional issues," such as the Palestinian cause.

This is a convenient formulation ensuring that change can be postponed indefinitely on the pretext that there are other, more pressing issues to attend to. But not all the conferences have taken such a guarded stand. The Doha Declaration for Democracy and Reform issued in June states boldly: "Hiding behind the necessity to resolve the Palestinian question before implementing political reform is obstructive and unacceptable."

At a conference held in June in Cairo, activists went so far as to reject "rule by a royal family" and spoke of the need to shake off "50 years of dictatorship." They called for an end to the Mubarak regime when the president's current term ends next year and for a very different kind of presidency to follow. They laid responsibility for the region's problems firmly at the feet of "authoritarian regimes which led in turn to the emergence of extremists and fanatics."

Some of the necessity to help Mideast heads of state have taken that a visit to Washington can be a bit unsettling — nothing like the back-slapping affections that used to take place during the Cold War. Ever since President Anwar Sadat signed the Camp David accords in 1978, the Egyptian head of state has

made an annual pilgrimage to the White House, where he has been greeted warmly. But this year, Bush wanted to talk about more than the nearly \$2 billion in aid the U.S. provides Egypt. He warned Mubarak that Egypt's ability to deliver on promises of reform was a national security concern of the United States.

And when Tunisian President Zine el Abidine ben Ali called on Bush in February, he received a public dressing-down for his lack of initiative on democracy and human rights. "I look forward to talking to you about the need to have a press corps that is vibrant and free, as well as an open political process. There's a lot we can talk about," Bush told ben Ali in front of reporters.

Despite the faults one might find with the Bush administration's policy toward the region ... the president deserves credit for having broken through the permafrost of entrenched authoritarian Arab governments. He has gotten their attention. Of course, he alone cannot be credited with this achievement, as each country is also responding to internal dynamics. But it is hard to deny that Bush's insistence on reform has contributed to what Mohamed Fayed, the British secretary general of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, referred to as a "historic juncture."

The positive signs of greater freedoms ... are as yet small green shoots of hope in what remains stony soil for reform. Having helped to create a crack in the oppressive edifice of the Egyptian state and elsewhere in the Middle East, there are limits to what the United States and the West can do to promote further change. ... Naturally, the major responsibility for shaping Egypt's future rests with the Egyptians. Nevertheless, the experience of the last few years has shown that what the U.S. president says about freedom and human rights makes a difference.

For this reason, reformers in the Arab world are watching the U.S. presidential elections unusually closely. In a speech in November, Bush noted how "60 years of Western nations excusing and accommodating the lack of freedom in the Middle East did nothing to make us safe — because in the long run, stability cannot be purchased at the expense of liberty." Arab reformers are hoping that, whoever wins in November, the United States will continue to make clear to authoritarian governments in the Middle East that repression is no longer an acceptable way to govern.

Neil Hicks is director of international programs for Human Rights First. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Cartoon by King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

TINSLEY/8-11

Horoscope

By now, you're starting to notice a change in the atmosphere. All events seem to be converging to give you one message — pay attention! With Virgo's precision affecting so many areas of life, one detail that's askew could produce a drastically different result. Counteract Mercury's retrograde by double-checking to be sure your bases are covered.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 11). You are in touch with your deeper motivations this year and therefore are better able to create a world that truly satisfies your needs. People who are attracted to you this fall (and there are more than you know what to do with) are fantastic additions to your life. You may be swept into romance in November. Love signs are Gemini and Cancer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You're not usually one to care about the approval of others, but today is an exception. You are much better off admitting that it matters. Authority figures will give you the respect you crave.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Temptation is all around, and you're especially vulnerable to it. You are not what you wear, drive or own, regardless of what impresses your friends. Financial independence is more important than showing social status.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Nothing is out of your league — go for it! Others may resent it when you receive preferential treatment this afternoon, but what can you do? Re-evaluate old relationships. You'll find you can be more accepting and forgiving.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Look at the practical aspects of your budget, and see what you can barter for and what you'll have to borrow to get. Your inventive mind comes up with a real doozy of a solution.

Loved ones make your night special.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Though you zip through the morning, you

may feel increasingly out of balance as the day passes. Make an effort to do one physical activity (this you should do every day), and also set aside an hour for quiet thoughts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The details get in the way of your overall satisfaction with a project. Time away from the action helps.

One way to ensure your happiness is to put your focus on spiritual values and daily service to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). An idea is ripe and ready to present, but cover yourself by applying for copyrights or patents if necessary.

When goodwill comes full circle, accept your due. Leisure is good for your heart and your productivity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Plans are helped along by creative innovation. What sounds like criticism is not meant to belittle you.

Family members pressure you to spend time with them, which would be annoying if you weren't so flattered.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Add new goals to your list, and begin practical planning, but don't jump in all at once. The research stage is the most important and will take almost as long as the application of what you learned.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Remaining flexible will be key now when so much is changing around you. Your emotional attachment to material possessions makes a transition difficult; get better perspective about what is truly important.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

There is much that you need from your support group now, but try not to expect the superhuman from partners and friends. Instead, concentrate on the factors you have complete control over. Tests go exceedingly well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Romance could be with someone you seems like your opposite. Turn down invitations that have nothing to do with your immediate goals. Temptations are plentiful, but your willpower is turned up.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



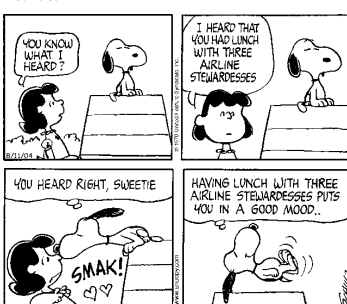
Red and Rover



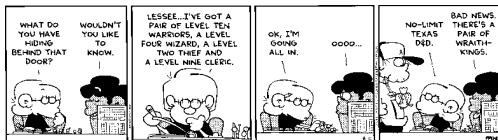
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



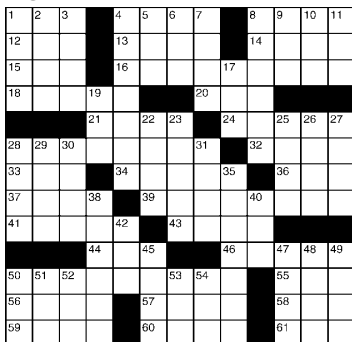
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Sailor
- 4 Tallow source
- 8 Hamlet
- 12 Inseparable
- 13 Desire
- 14 Hydrox rival
- 15 Packed away
- 16 Show-stopper, maybe
- 18 Actress Jennifer
- 20 Resort
- 21 Harry's first lady
- 24 Flight component
- 28 Auditor's dream
- 32 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
- 33 — Khan
- 34 Sequence
- 36 Antique
- 37 Characterization
- 39 Bloomberg's bailiwick
- 41 "Queer Eye" network
- 43 A slave to crossword's
- 44 Saturn auto model
- 46 Stared studiously
- 50 Head honcho
- 55 Anger
- 56 Laugh-a-minute sort
- 57 Luminary
- 58 Pen point
- 59 Lends a hand
- 60 Reville's opposite

Down

- 1 Objective
- 2 Informed of
- 3 Gridlock noise
- 4 Like some refrigerators
- 5 Swiss canton
- 6 Early bird?
- 7 Nadia's scores
- 8 Love apple
- 9 Sphere
- 10 Teensy
- 11 Neither mate
- 12 Delivery co.
- 19 "Cabaret" lyricist
- 26 Delgrade native
- 23 Thompson or Hawkins
- 25 On
- 26 "— have to do"
- 27 Took the A train
- 28 Pointed remark
- 29 Lab assistant?
- 30 Festive
- 31 Bar stack
- 35 Yellowstone employees
- 38 Votes off the island
- 40 Shell-game need
- 42 Reaction to fireworks
- 45 Fit snugly inside
- 47 Heartstrings sound
- 48 One of HOMES
- 49 Arrears
- 50 Support system?
- 51 Sundial number
- 52 Pantheon member
- 53 SFO info
- 54 Potential syrup

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-11

CRYPTOQUIP

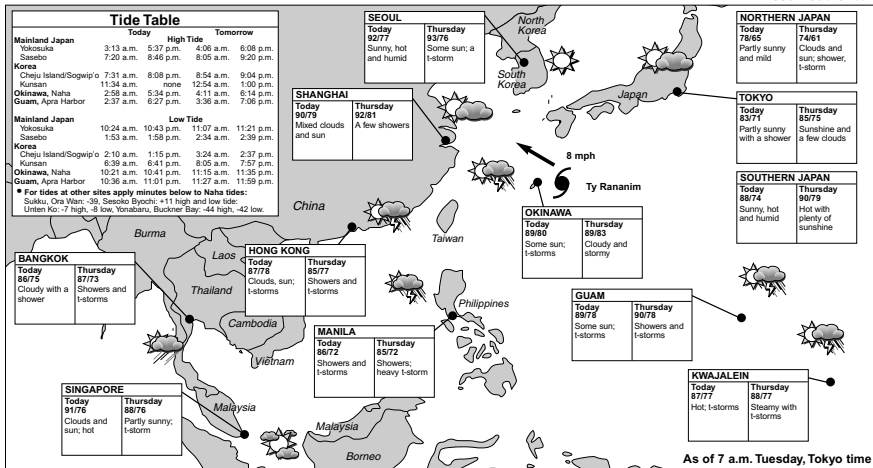
PLMI Z CZBBSZTM
NMBMCKIH AMNCKMR
BMZQQH GJQQ, S TJMRR
FLZFR Z PMGGSIT AQZIG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE LOCATION OF A SHOPPER, COULD YOU ASK "BUYER BE WHERE?"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals L

The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Friday: Partly sunny, high 87, low 77.
Saturday: Showers, high 87, low 75.

KADENA

Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 93, low 85.
Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 95, low 85.

SEoul

Friday: Rain, high 86, low 70.
Saturday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 74.

MANILA

Friday: Thunderstorms, high 86, low 73.
Saturday: Thunderstorms, high 86, low 74.

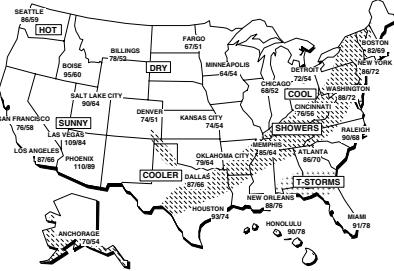
HAGATNA

Friday: Thunderstorms, high 90, low 79.
Saturday: Thunderstorms, high 88, low 78.

Monday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	93/66	Los Angeles	85/66
Amariito	88/66	Little Rock	93/70
Anchorage	72/55	Louisville	87/68
Asheville	82/57	Miami	92/79
Baltimore	86/65	Milwaukee	84/62
Birmingham	90/69	Nashville	88/66
Bismarck	63/44	New York	87/72
Boise	95/63	Omaha	83/57
Boston	63/67	Orlando	89/74
Brownsville	96/76	Philadelphia	89/68
Buffalo	81/66	Phoenix	110/90
Burlington	82/61	Pittsburgh	80/64
Charleston, SC	89/67	Portland, OR	100/62
Cleveland	83/66	Salt Lake City	93/63
Columbus, OH	85/65	St. Louis	89/68
Duluth	69/50	San Antonio	94/74
El Paso	94/70	San Diego	77/67
Harford	85/61	San Juan	90/76
Helena	79/48	Tampa	89/76
Indianapolis	85/64	Tulsa	93/71
Jacksonville	87/69	Washington	87/69
Kansas City	89/63	Wichita	92/67

Wednesday, August 11



U.S. Extended Forecast

Another touch of low pressure will dig into the eastern part of the country and bring more below-normal temperatures, as well as the chance of rain and thunderstorms, from Wednesday through Friday. Cool temperatures and showers will prevail across much of the Great Lakes. Florida will have showers and thunderstorms pop up along sea breeze boundaries. A few showers and thunderstorms will occur along the Gulf Coast, as well as parts of Texas. A ridge of high pressure will bring dry and warm weather to most of the western part of the country, except for pop-up afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms over the higher elevations of the Rockies and Desert Southwest.

Wednesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	86/75	Iwakuni	88/74	Sasebo NB	87/76
Beijing	82/61	Kadena AB	89/80	Sapporo	78/65
Camp Casey	93/77	Kunsan AB	89/77	Seoul	92/77
Christchurch	47/39	Kwajalein	87/77	Shanghai	90/79
Diego Garcia	87/73	Manila	86/72	Singapore	91/76
Hagatna	89/78	Miwa AB	89/78	Sydney	66/46
Hanoi	90/78	Osan	92/78	Taegu	89/75
Hong Kong	87/78	Perth	63/44	Taipei	91/74
Honolulu	90/78	Pusan	87/74	Tokyo	83/71

Wednesday's World Temperatures

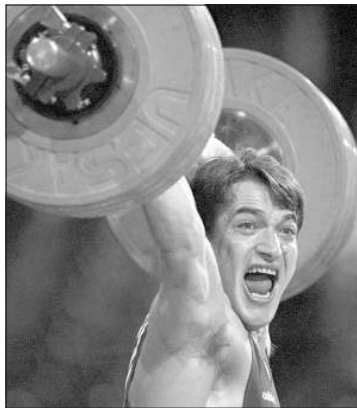
CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	86/75	Iwakuni	88/74	Sasebo NB	87/76
Beijing	82/61	Kadena AB	89/80	Sapporo	78/65
Camp Casey	93/77	Kunsan AB	89/77	Seoul	92/77
Christchurch	47/39	Kwajalein	87/77	Shanghai	90/79
Diego Garcia	87/73	Manila	86/72	Singapore	91/76
Hagatna	89/78	Miwa AB	89/78	Sydney	66/46
Hanoi	90/78	Osan	92/78	Taegu	89/75
Hong Kong	87/78	Perth	63/44	Taipei	91/74
Honolulu	90/78	Pusan	87/74	Tokyo	83/71



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Pyrrhos Dimas of Greece, shown setting a world record of 83 kilograms in the snatch portion of the 1996 Olympic weightlifting competition, is a superstar in his adopted homeland as the Olympics come to Athens.

Muscled shoulders carry Greek hopes

Dimas, Kakiassvilis give hosts a strong 1-2 punch; Cunningham returns to defend surprise 2000 gold

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

The Super Bowl is a certain TV ratings generator in the United States. In England, World Cup soccer does the trick. In Greece, there's Pyrrhos Dimas and Kakiassvilis.

They may be virtually unknown to all but the most devoted of Olympic watchers in America, but in their adopted homeland Dimas and Kakiassvilis are as real as it gets reality TV.

When they each compete for a fourth Olympic gold medal in Athens this summer, records are likely to be broken, and not just on the lifting platform.

Just how big are the two in Greek culture — even if, for the moment, they're not as big as Greece's surprise European soccer champions? Greeks simply refer to Dimas with the one-word identifier Pyrrhos, much as Americans do with Tiger or Shaq. When he and Kakiassvilis lift during an Olympics, it's not just sports fans who watch but virtually the entire country.

Dimas' 1992 gold medal in Barcelona caused such joy in Greece that 60,000 fans later jammed the original Olympic stadium to celebrate and another 30,000 mingled outside. When Dimas and Kakiassvilis both won gold in Atlanta four years later, after Kakiassvilis had emigrated from Tsinvali, Georgia, the TV ratings were the second highest in Greek history despite starting times past midnight local time.

Want to guess the magnitude of the celebration should Dimas, Kakiassvilis or both win record-tying fourth gold medals on their home soil? To date, only three athletes have won four golds in an individual Olympic event.

There's just one problem, and it worries every Greek sports fan as the Olympics approach: There could be rust on that gold.

Despite promising in Sydney that he wouldn't do so, Dimas (a native of Chinara, Albania) spent most of the last four years out of competition.

He returned to finish a disappointing fourth at 187 pounds (85 kg) in the European championships in April, just as Kakiassvilis did at 207 pounds (94 kg).

Both looked plenty strong enough but understandably struggled with their technique following long layoffs; after Sydney, Kakiassvilis didn't compete again until failing to place in the 2003 European championships.

There's some precedence here, too, and it doesn't offer much room for optimism for either weightlifter.

"I think I do have the ability to be in medals and, honestly, I do believe I'm there. ... I'm not looking at finishing fifth or something here again. It's going to be all or nothing for me."

Shane Hamman
U.S. super heavyweight

Naim Suleymanoglu, the Turkish star known as Pocket Hercules, tried to win a fourth gold medal in Sydney following a three-year layoff but didn't complete a single lift. Turkey's disappointment was soothed by the equally small and equally strong Halil Mutlu's second gold. Now, the 4-foot-11 Mutlu was going for third straight gold that would tie him with Pocket Hercules, this time at Suleymanoglu's old weight (137 pounds, 62 kg).

Also looking to make the record books is German super heavyweight Ronny Weller, who can become the first weightlifter to win five Olympic medals — so far, he has a gold, two silvers and a bronze. But Weller also looked rusty while failing to place in the European championships and, at age 35, he competes in the same class as returning gold medalist Hossein Rezaeizadeh, the world's top lifter the last couple of years.

No American man has won an Olympic weightlifting medal since 4-foot-10 gold medalist Charles Vinci in 1960, and it will be a surprise if any of the three on this year's team do so.

Super heavyweight Shane Hamman is a training companion of Greco-Roman wrestling champion Rulon Gardner and holds every U.S. record, but has yet to close the considerable gap with the elite lifters. His best two-lift total of 940½ pounds is nearly 100 pounds below Rezaeizadeh's best.

"But I'm going to load up the weight and I'm going to try it," the 345-pound Hamman said. "I think I do have the ability to be in medals and, honestly, I do believe I'm there. ... I'm not looking at finishing fifth or something here again. It's going to be all or nothing for me."

The United States' top medal hopes probably are the same as in 2000: returning 105½-pound gold medalist Tara Cunningham and super heavyweight Cheryl Ann Haworth, who took home a bronze from Sydney at age 17.

Cunningham, known as Tara Nott before she got married, had never finished above sixth against world-class competition until her surprising second in Sydney. A bigger surprise came three days later when Isabella Dragneva of Bulgaria failed a drug test and lost her gold medal, which then went to Cunningham. It was one of three such failed tests for the Bulgarian team, which was briefly thrown out of the games until being reinstated on appeal.

The 32-year-old Cunningham hasn't been a big player on the world stage since Sydney, placing seventh in the last two world championships. But she decided to hold off retirement until after Athens, saying, "I feel blessed to be able to do this, and I felt led to try to do this."

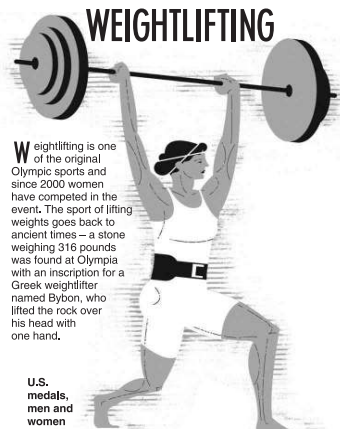
Haworth sat out last year's world championships following elbow surgery but was fourth in 2002 at age 19.

Just as in Sydney, the Chinese women expect to dominate. They won the maximum four events they were permitted to enter in 2000 and probably could have gone 7-for-7. Again, their biggest problem may be deciding which three potential Olympic champions to sit down.

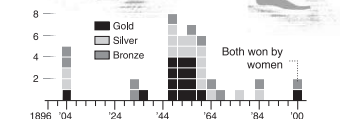


Tara Cunningham returns to defend her surprise gold medal won four years ago at Sydney.

NIKAIA OLYMPIC WEIGHTLIFTING HALL
AUG. 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29



U.S. medals, men and women



Historical medal count Total 462		2000 medals Total 46	
Soviet Union 62	Bulgaria 34	China 7	Bulgaria 3
United States 43	Others	Greece 5	Indonesia 3
		Russia 3	Others

SOURCES: International Olympic Committee; International Weightlifting Federation; USA Weightlifting

Catherine New,
Chris Kaiser • AP

Keeping fingers crossed for safe Olympics

The Olympics begin this week, giving Americans a fresh opportunity to engage in our national pastime.

No, not baseball. The United States managed to fail to qualify for the Games in our former national pastime.

This is about our new pastime: trying to think like terrorists.

It is played at the highest level of government, with military, cabinet and Homeland Security officials assigning bright colors to their best guesses. And it is played by every citizen who has to decide whether to fly, be part of large crowds, or even go to work in New York City.

Those of us assigned to cover the Summer Olympics in Athens — the opening ceremony is Friday the 13th — have been indulging in this new national pastime for months.

Would they try to attack a stadium full of people? Were the Madrid train bombings an indication that they would attempt to disrupt the transportation system? They really seem to be into hostage-taking right now; is that the biggest risk? But there is no need to question whether they will have

an impact on these Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee likes to boast about the estimated \$1.5 billion spent on security for these Games. That's five times the amount spent on the 2000 Games in Sydney — the last Summer Olympics before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, changed everything.

The IOC trots that number out as an assurance to those who will attend and participate in the Games. But the number also measures just how big an impact international terrorists already have had on this event. If you can get your enemies to spend an extra billion dollars or so, that is an undeniable impact.

If you can force a Summer Olympics to be held beneath patrolling AWACS jets and some sort of enormous observation blimp, then you've had an impact.

If you can discourage people from attending those Games (news reports last week said that only about half the tickets had been sold and hotel rooms are said to be all too available), then you've had an impact.

If you can turn the hosting of an Olympics from a privilege into a

huge deficit-producing bogdog, then you've had an impact.

The point here isn't to suggest that the Games should be canceled.

Giving in to this kind of terror is always a mistake. I'm backing up that belief in my own small way, by getting on a plane to Athens this week and being present at as many events as the schedule will allow.

(At the same time, it is wrong to condemn those athletes, notably NBA players, who choose to skip these Games.

The ones who are going deserve respect, but there's nothing wrong with choosing not to make yourself a potential target, and NBA stars are clearly bigger targets than

newspaper hacks.) The point is that this whole scenario could have been avoided. A year ago, it was obvious to everyone that Athens was not the best place to hold these high-risk Olympics. The very geography of Greece, with its hard-to-defend coastline and its proximity to the terrorists' home base, made it a poor choice. When the local organizers fell way behind in their preparations, the IOC had a perfect rationale to move the Games.

*Here's hoping
the Athens
Olympics are
all about
gold and
silver and
bronze
instead of
red and
orange and
yellow alerts.*

Sydney, host of the most recent Summer Games, would have been ideal. The infrastructure was already in place, and it is far from pretty much everywhere else. It wouldn't have been completely safe — there may be no such thing anymore — but it would have inspired more confidence than Athens.

Now it's too late. The Games are going on as planned, and the IOC must accept responsibility for whatever happens in Athens.

If that means a widely successful and secure Olympics, then great.

The IOC and the Athens organizers will deserve full credit, and they will get it from this grateful attendee.

If that means a logistical nightmare a la Atlanta's transportation mess, or performances hindered by Athens' legendary smog, then

the IOC will deserve criticism.

If it means something much worse, then the IOC will deserve condemnation.

Will the extra billion in security make would-be terrorists shy away, choosing to focus their efforts on other, softer targets? Or will it serve as a red cape, daring the terrorists to show us that we are vulnerable no matter how much money we spend? See? There we go again, trying to think like terrorists. It is one of the more unpleasant by-products of this scary new world we're living in. It's also ultimately pointless.

So here's hoping the Athens Olympics are all about gold and silver and bronze instead of red and orange and yellow alerts.

Let the Games begin, yes, but please also let them end safely.

Phil Sheridan is a sports columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Phil Sheridan



Injured judo champ's boyfriend throws himself off same balcony

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The boyfriend of a Greek judo champion who fell from a third-floor balcony jumped from the same spot Monday and was also critically injured.

Giorgos Christodimos, 24, was in life-support in the intensive care unit of Athens' Evangelismos hospital with injuries to the head and back after jumping from their apartment, police said.

Eleni Ioannou, 20, was in critical condition at another Athens hospital after she fell from the balcony Saturday following an argument with Christodimos.

Police are investigating how she fell. They had questioned Christodimos but released him.

Christodimos, an unemployed auto mechanic, had tried to jump Sunday, yelling, "I'm going to find Eleni," before relatives and friends restrained him, his family said. During lunch Monday with his grandmother in the apartment, he suddenly stood up and threw himself off the balcony without saying a word.

Ioannou, a student at the Athens Gymnastics Academy, was a promising Olympian in a sport that only recently gained popularity in Greece. With just four years of experience, she had won three

Olympic briefs

national championships, and a bronze medal in 1992 in the Balkan championships.

Coach: Edwards will appeal doping suspension

GIORGIOUPOULI, Greece — Sprinter Torri Edwards plans to appeal any drug suspension she receives in a final attempt to salvage her spot on the U.S. Olympic team.

"I said, 'Fight, because it makes your spirit strong,'" her coach, John Smith, told The Associated Press on Monday. "She said, 'I have no choice.' Good, I like that."

Edwards and Smith are in Crete at the U.S. track and field training camp for the Athens Games, which begin Friday.

"It's just very frustrating," she said quietly.

Edwards, who made the U.S. team in the 100 and 200 meters, also certainly will be suspended from the sport for two years after testing positive for a banned stimulant at a meet in Martinique in April. She said she didn't know the drug was in a glucose supplement she took because she wasn't feeling well.

Greece dismisses ballypays after failing drug test

ATHENS, Greece — Two players on the Greek Olympic baseball team tested positive for banned substances and were thrown off the team.

Andrew James Brack and Derek Nicholson, both U.S.-born Greek citizens, tested positive in samples taken Aug. 5, the Greek Olympic Committee said Monday.

Brack tested positive for the steroid stanozolol, while Nicholson, an alternate on the team, tested positive for diuretics, officials said.

U.S. women rout France

SALAMANCA, Spain — Lisa Leslie scored 12 points and Sue Bird added 11, leading the U.S. women's Olympic team to a 68-38 victory over France on Sunday at the Spanish International Tournament.

The Americans, winners of the past two Olympic gold medals, rallied from an early 15-0 deficit and tied the game on a pair of free throws by Tina Thompson with 3:29 left in the first quarter.

Leslie hit a layup a minute later to give the Americans the lead for good.

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Gibbons' repairs as Jays top N.Y.

Toronto ends 5-game losing skid; Orioles finish sweep of Rangers

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gabe Gross connected off Esteban Loaiza for his first major league home run, Josh Towers took a shutout into the seventh inning and the Toronto Blue Jays won in John Gibbons' first game as manager, beating the New York Yankees 5-4 on Monday to stop a five-game losing streak.

AL Roundup
A day after Toronto fired manager Carlos Tosca and replaced him with Gibbons for the rest of the season, the last-place Blue Jays (48-64) built a 5-0 lead in winning the finale of a four-game series.

They kept Locke winless in two starts since the Yankees acquired him from the Chicago

White Sox on July 31 for Jose Contreras.

Bernie Williams hit a two-run homer in the seventh off Towers and Hideki Matsui added a two-run drive in the ninth off Frasier. Jorge Posada then walked, but Frasier retired Williams on a bunt, threw a called third strike past John Olerud and got pinch-hitter Robert Sierra to ground into a forceout, earning his 15th save in 16 chances.

Loaiza (9-6) allowed his 26th home of the season, third in the AL behind Jamie Moyer (31) and Bartolo Colon (29). As soon as Gross' two-run drive down the right-field line hit the top of the wall and bounced over in the sixth inning, the crowd of 49,853 began booing Loaiza.

He allowed five runs — four earned — and 10 hits over six innings in the rotation appears in jeopardy. Towers (7-4) won for the fifth time in six starts.

Orioles 7, Rangers 3: Melvin Mora homered twice and drove in three runs and Baltimore extended its winning streak to seven and completed a four-game sweep of visiting Texas.

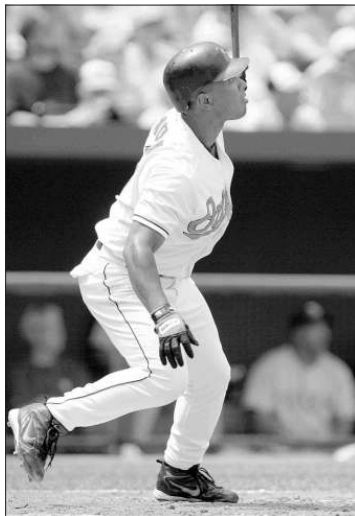
Larry Bigbie also connected for the Orioles, who completed their first 7-0 homestand since September 1969.

Dave Borkowski (3-2) pitched six innings of four-hit ball, giving the Orioles their longest winning streak since September 1999.

David Dellucci and Alfonso Soriano homered for the Rangers, who were outscored 10-3 in their first four-game sweep in Baltimore.



New Toronto manager John Gibbons talks to pitcher Jason Frasor in the ninth inning on Monday.



Baltimore's Melvin Mora watches his fifth-inning home run on Monday which helped the Orioles to a 7-3 win and a four-game sweep of Texas.

more in 13 seasons. Texas has lost nine straight to the Orioles since May 29, 2003.

Mora gave Baltimore the lead for good with a two-run drive in the first inning off Mike Bacsik (1-1), then added a solo shot in the fifth off reliever Joaquin Benoit. He has three homers in his last two games, and his 20 this season are a career high, eclipsing the 19 he hit in 2002.

Mora went 2-for-3 with a walk and has hit in 11 straight games, going 18-for-41 (.439) in that span to lift his batting average to .251.

Dellucci's solo homer got the Rangers started in the first.

Baltimore bounced back with three runs in the bottom half against Bacsik. After Brian Roberts hit a leadoff double and Mora

homered, Miguel Tejada walked and scored on a double by Jay Lopez.

Hank Blalock hit a sacrifice fly to score Dellucci and bring Texas to 3-2 in the third, but the Orioles pulled away with a three-run fifth. Bigbie hit his 12th home run after B.J. Surhoff hit a leadoff double, and Mora homered on Benoit's second pitch.

Tejada got his 101st RBI with a groundout in the seventh.

In an AL game Sunday:

Angels 6, Royals 4: Jose Guillen tied the game with a homer in the ninth off Nate Field (2-3), and David Eckstein's suicide squeeze drove in the go-ahead run for visiting Anaheim.

A's defeat Twins in 'only' nine

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Mark Kotz and Scott Hatteberg each drove in two runs and Rich Harden gave the Oakland bullpen a rest in the Athletics' 8-2 victory Monday over the Minnesota Twins.

A day after each team used seven pitchers in Oakland's 18-inning, 6-1 victory, starters Harden and Kyle Lohse each pitched into the seventh. The A's took three of four from Minnesota in a match-up of AL division leaders.

Oakland took the lead for good in the sixth, when two walks and Hatteberg's double loaded the bases. Eric Byrnes' RBI single tied the score 2-2 and Marco Scutaro hit into a double play as the go-ahead run scored.

The Athletics chased Lohse (5-9) with a run in the seventh, then broke the game open with four in the eighth off relievers Aaron Fultz and Jesse Crain. Kotz's two-run double was the key hit as Oakland sent 10 batters to the plate and took an 8-2 lead.

Harden (6-5) allowed two runs, seven hits and four walks in 6 2/3 innings to win his third straight decision. He gave up the eighth start since June 21 at Anaheim.

Lohse gave up four runs, eight hits and four walks in 6 1/3 innings for the Twins, who have lost four of their last five.

On Sunday, Jermaine Dye's tie-breaking RBI single eyed a three-run 18th inning and Oakland withstood another shutout by closer Octavio Dotel.

It was the second-longest game in the 23-year history of the Metropolitan Cleveland and Minnesota to played 22 innings on Aug. 31, 1993. This one matched the longest game in the major leagues this season. Texas beat Seattle 9-7 in 18 innings on June 24.

Dotel, who blew his last two save chances, gave up a two-run homer to Justin Morneau in the eighth before finishing for his ninth save in 13 chances with Oakland.

Phillies add idle to rotation, but lose Burrell for season

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Trying to bolster a rotation depleted by injuries, the Philadelphia Phillies acquired starting pitcher Cory Lidle from the Cincinnati Reds on Monday for two minor leaguers and a player to be named.

The Phillies got more bad news Monday when it was learned that outfielder Pat Burrell would miss the rest of the season because of wrist surgery.

Lidle, who is 7-10 with a 5.32 ERA in 24 starts, will step into an inconsistent rotation that had been missing Kevin Millwood and Vicente Padilla, both on the disabled list. Lidle is tied for second in the NL with three complete games and led the Reds with 149 innings pitched.

Cincinnati obtained Class-A

Briefs

outfielder Javon Moran and left-handed pitcher Joe Wilson in the trade.

Lidle probably will take Paul Abbott's spot in the Philadelphia rotation. Abbott is 1-6 with a 6.24 ERA in 10 starts since signing with the Phillies after being released by Tampa Bay.

Lidle, 32, is 52-44 with a 4.56 ERA in seven major league seasons with the New York Mets, Tampa Bay, Oakland, Toronto and Cincinnati.

Burrell, who injured his left wrist in batting practice last Tuesday, is hitting .263 with 18 homers and 68 RBIs. He'll be replaced in left field by a combina-

tion of Doug Glavine, Jason Michaels and rookie Lou Collier.

Penny to miss one start

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Brad Penny has a strained right biceps and is expected to miss one start after being forced to leave a weekend game because of pain in his arm.

Making his second start after being acquired in a trade with Florida, the right-hander led Sunday's game after throwing only 14 pitches against Philadelphia.

An MRI exam Monday revealed no tears or structural damage in his arm, Dodgers spokesman John Olguin said.

"It's obviously very good news for us," Olguin said. "It was originally feared that the injury was more serious because of the severity of the pain in Penny's upper arm."

Penny left the mound after his 14th pitch and at first thought he had a cramp. He then tried a practice pitch and jumped off the mound, writing in pain.

Penny, 26, joined the NL West leaders just before the trade deadline in a deal that sent Paul Lo Duca, Guillermo Mota and Juan Encarnacion to the Marlins.

Tigers' Sanchez on DL

DETROIT — Detroit Tigers outfielder Alex Sanchez was placed on the 15-day disabled list Monday with a strained right thigh. Detroit also recalled outfielder Nook Logan from Triple-A Toledo, and he will join the Tigers for the second time this season.

Sanchez left Sunday's game against Boston after the eighth inning with the quadricip injury. In

79 games this season, he is hitting .322 with 19 stolen bases.

Logan, during eight games in July, batted .333 with two doubles and one RBI. With the Mud Hens, Logan hit .263 with 14 doubles, nine triples, two home runs and 27 RBIs in 105 games.

Torre: Giambi to rehab soon

NEW YORK — Jason Giambi is slowly regaining strength, and New York Yankees manager Joe Torre said the former AL MVP will report this week to the team's spring training complex in Tampa, Fla.

The first baseman, who has felt weak for most of the season, has not played since July 23. The Yankees at first diagnosed him with an intestinal parasite, then said July 30 that he had a benign tumor, without disclosing where it was located.

Mohr's glove keeps Giants' thick of wild-card race

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — In mid air, Dustan Mohr reminded himself of one fundamental baseball rule: Watch the ball until it's in your glove.

Mohr made a run-saving diving catch in the warning track dirt in the eighth inning of the San Francisco Giants' 6-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Sunday night.

Then, he moved from center field to right for the final inning and ended the game with a sliding catch that caused him to roll over the bullpen mound. After he lost a ball in the sun on Aramis Ramirez's single in the fourth, it became his mission to make up for it.

"I took two or three steps and knew I was going to get close," said Mohr, who ranked the first catch as the toughest play he's made. "I did everything I could to get

there. I just wanted to make sure I watched the ball into my glove."

Rookie Noah Lowry (2-0) had another impressive start for San Francisco, even adding a second-inning single and a double in the fourth to give him four straight hits over his past two starts until a groundout in the sixth.

The Giants moved within two games of the Cubs in the NL wild card race, tied with San Diego.

A.J. Pierzynski had two hits and two RBIs for the Giants, including his run-scoring groundout in the seventh for an insurance run. Pedro Feliz scored on the play after Barry Bonds when the defense shifted toward right field for the slugger.

Lowry received a loud ovation when he gave way to new closer Dustin Hermanson with one out in the eighth, but the cheers for Mohr were even greater after he robbed Moises Alou of an extra-base hit with his big catch in left-center for the

final out of the inning to keep Nomar Garciaparra from scoring the tying run.

The Giants' dugout erupted in celebration and players rushed out to congratulate him.

"I don't even know how to describe the feeling," Mohr said.

"It took me some time to gather myself. I was excited. The team was excited. It was a big win."

Mohr also had a sacrifice fly in the third to make it 3-2, then singled to start the Giants' two-run eighth in which one of the runs was unearned. Mohr also got hit by a pitch in the left wrist in the fifth.

Lowry, a 23-year-old lefty making his fifth major league start, earned his first win last Tuesday night in an 11-0 victory over Cincinnati. He struck out six and walked one in 7 1/3 innings Sunday, allowing two earned runs on eight hits.

"I like the way things are going right now," he said. "I'm going to stick with the same game plan."

Pirates 4, Padres 2: Randall Simon hit a go-ahead solo homer in the sixth and Oliver Perez (7-6) pitched into the seventh inning against his former team, leading Pittsburgh to a victory in San Diego.

Humberto Cota also hit a solo homer for Pittsburgh, which won consecutive road games for the first time since ending a three-game road winning streak on July 5. The Pirates won for just the third time in 11 games overall.

Braves 11, Diamondbacks 4: Chipper Jones homered and drove in four runs to lead visiting Atlanta to its fifth straight victory.

Ross Ortiz (13-6) got his 13th win and Eddie Perez went 4-for-5 with two homers for the streaking Braves, who have won 10 of 11 and 14 of 16. Atlanta, which is 31-9 since losing a season-high three straight games in late June, remained 5½ games ahead of Philadelphia in the NL East.

The Diamondbacks have lost four straight and 41 of 50.

Marlins must make move soon

BY STEVEN WINE

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Before the Florida Marlins' most recent game, Jack McKeon and Jeff Conine crossed paths in the locker room and greeted each other wrongly but warmly.

"Hey, Jim," McKeon said.

"Hi, Bill," Conine replied. In the second season as the Marlins' manager, the 73-year-old McKeon still mangles the names of his players, sometimes intentionally and always to their amusement. Thanks in large part to his Stengelesque personality and "let's have fun" philosophy, the Florida clubhouse again ranks as perhaps the merriest in baseball.

But in the standings, the defending World Series champions aren't doing so well. With a 55-55 record, they're a season-and-a-half game behind first-place Atlanta in the NL East, and 5½ game in the wild-card race, trailing four teams.

"I wouldn't say our backs are against the wall," center fielder Juan Pierre said, "but they're pretty close to it."

After failing to take advantage of a soft stretch in the schedule, Florida next plays three games against the St. Louis Cardinals, who own the best record in the major leagues.

"That's good," McKeon said. "We like to see them when they come in hot. They're due to cool off. Hopefully it'll be here."

The Marlins want to believe the stage is set for another improbable title run. Last year they came from behind in the wild-card race and closed with a 32-14 spurt, postseason included.

The deficit is more daunting this year. On Aug. 10, 2003, the Marlins were tied for the wild-card lead. Now they need a 36-16 finish to match last year's 91-71 record.

"We're very upbeat," pitcher Dontrelle Willis said. "It can come down to the last week, so anything's possible, especially in this locker room. We definitely know how to come from behind, so we're definitely going to claw our way back until they say we can't do anymore."

It helps that the Marlins have games remaining against all of the teams they're chasing in the wild-card race. They play Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Diego and the Chicago Cubs a combined 19 times.

They also have six games left against Atlanta, which surged ahead in the division by winning 31 of its past 40 games.

During the same stretch the Marlins struggled against the NL's last-place teams, losing 11 in a row to Arizona, Montreal and

Pittsburgh over the span of a month.

"We can only blame ourselves," Conine said. "We played so poorly for quite a while. We let the Braves get ahead, and can't do anything about that now. We just have to put together as many victories as we can."

One reason for Fish fans to be encouraged: Deals that brought in five players just before the trade deadline are already paying dividends. Guillermo Mota has provided welcome relief pitching. Ismael Valdez threw six shutouts in his first start, and catcher Paul Lo Duca — "Do Luca" to McKeon — is batting .500 with eight RBIs in 18 at-bats.

"We're a much better club than we were before," McKeon said.

Last season's manager of the year has been saddled much of 2004 with a spattering offense, an unreliable bullpen and a rotation that failed to blossom.

As a result, the Marlins rank 12th in the NL in runs and 10th in ERA. World Series MVP Josh Beckett and hard-throwing A.J. Burnett are a combined 6-12, and catcher Juan Rodriguez — hitting .343 with 67 RBIs for Detroit — has been sorely missed.

Nevertheless, Lo Duca said, the Marlins retain a championship aura.

"There's something to be said for people who know how to win," Lo Duca said.



Jack McKeon has kept the atmosphere light and friendly in the Florida Marlins' locker room but things aren't so rosy in the NL standings.

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Maddox feeling pressure from rookie

Steelers QB adjusting to role reversal

By KEN MURRAY
The Baltimore Sun

LATROBE, Pa. — At age 21, Tommy Maddox was cruising the first lane of the NFL. He was a first-round draft choice of the Denver Broncos, the likely successor to John Elway and a star in waiting.

Four weeks shy of his 33rd birthday, Maddox is officially on the flip side. The incumbent starting quarterback of the Pittsburgh Steelers will spend training camp and beyond looking over his shoulder at the future of the team.

What he faces there is 6-foot-4 Ben Roethlisberger, a chiseled-in-stone specimen from Miami of Ohio and the Steelers' first-round pick in April.

Once the golden boy, Maddox now is being pressed by one.

"When they drafted Ben, I thought about it a lot," Maddox said of the juxtaposition. "It's amazing how things reverse. I went from young guy in this league for a long time to now I'm the old guy. That's the way this game works."

If the Steelers are going to reverse their role as a 6-10 also-ran in the AFC North and challenge the Ravens for the division title, they almost certainly will need Maddox to rebound from his 17-interception, 41-sack season in 2003.

Not that 6-10 was all his doing. The Steelers' offensive line was in shambles, starting three players at left tackle and two at right tackle.

Their vaunted running game was a rumor and the defense couldn't force the issue the way it once did.

As a result, Maddox threw 519 passes, a franchise high, and the



Pittsburgh Steelers first-round draft pick Ben Roethlisberger, left, and starting quarterback Tommy Maddox react to a play during Roethlisberger's first practice at training camp in Latrobe, Pa., Wednesday.

running game finished next-to-last, a franchise low. Not surprisingly, Maddox caught a lot of criticism.

"He did a great job two years ago," coach Bill Cowher said. "Last year a lot of people felt that Tommy had a bad year but it wasn't just him. There were a lot of circumstances involved."

Help came in free agency when the Steelers signed former Philadelphia Eagles running back Duce Staley, an eight-year veteran with 4,807 career rushing yards. Staley could take Jerome Bettis' starting job or simply share it.

Up front, the Steelers need Marvel Smith, held to six games last

year with a neck injury, and Olivier Ross, largely ineffective all year, to restore order at the two tackle positions.

Cowher fired three starters on defense and revamped his secondary with the goal of getting quicker. He also fired defensive coordinator Tim Lewis and replaced him with 66-year-old Dick LeBeau, the originator of the zone blitz with the Steelers a decade ago.

Still, any quick turnaround in Pittsburgh will hinge on the performance of Maddox. Even though Roethlisberger will receive bonuses worth more than \$9 million dollars as the 11th pick in the draft, he isn't expected to start anytime soon.

"I think it's always hard when you're a rookie to have a competition with a veteran player," said new offensive coordinator Ken Whisenand. "I think there's so much stuff thrown at you that it's hard to catch up. But he's definitely gifted with great physical tools, and we're going to give him as much as he can take."

If anything, Maddox was guilty of trying to do too much last season while the rest of the team collapsed around him. Many of his interceptions came when the Steelers were behind and forced to pass.

"Tommy's a good quarterback when he plays within himself, which he's done for us this spring and which he's done for us in the past," Whisenand said. "He's valuable. He does a good job."

After Roethlisberger was drafted, the Steelers gave Maddox a contract extension that includes a \$2 million signing bonus spread over the season. That took the sting out of the draft pick.

"I feel appreciated," Maddox said. "I've got a job. I'm out there playing football. There's worse things I've been unappreciated. I was sitting home this time of year. That really doesn't bother me a whole lot."

Maddox actually sat home for five years after he was cut by the New York Giants in 1996. He never realized expectations as a first-round pick in Denver and was cut by three teams. He had a stint in the Arena Football League and the now-defunct NFL before the Steelers gave him a chance as a free agent in 2001.

In 2002, Maddox revived his career with 20 touchdown passes in 11 starts, replacing ailing Stewart. Now he's trying to build onto his job with the newest golden boy waiting in the wings.

Maddox said he has no problem working with Roethlisberger.

"It's a working relationship, one where you're competing, you're going out trying to do the best you can and you're rooting for the other guys. All that will work itself out," he said.

Pampling lands first PGA win with eagle

The Associated Press

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. — Rod Pampling made a 21-foot eagle putt from the fringe on the 17th hole to move past Alex Cejka and earn his first PGA Tour victory at The International on Sunday.

Pampling had scored just two points in the final round and trailed Cejka by three shots headed to the par-5 17th. After a long tee shot, Pampling landed his approach in the fringe just right of the flag. He

then curled in the putt, pumping his fist as he dropped it to earn five points under the tournament's modified Stabelford scoring system.

Pampling closed with a par to finish with 31 points, taking home the \$900,000 first-place check.

Cejka, who trailed by a point at the start of the round, was hurt by double bogeys on Nos. 8 and 16, losing six points on those two holes.

Chris DiMarco, tied for the lead after three rounds, made the turn with 24 points after bogeys on Nos. 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9. He tied for sixth and picked up valuable Ryder Cup points, moving from 19th in the standings to 15th.

Mallon edges Stupples by stroke in Farr Classic

SYLVANIA, Ohio — Matt Mallon birdied three of the final four holes, including a 10-footer at the 18th, for a one-stroke victory over Karen Stupples and defending champion Se Ri Pak in the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic.

Mallon overcame a four-stroke deficit on the final six holes to move past Stupples, closing with a 3-under 68 for a 7-7 record to win her third event of the year. She also won the U.S. Women's Open and Canadian Open last month.

Stupples and Pak narrowly missed birdie putts at the 18th that would have forced a playoff.

Stupples had a 2-over 73 and Pak closed with a 68 at Highland Meadows Golf Club.

Kite ends 21-month drought

BLAINE, Minn. — Tom Kite made three birdies in the final seven holes in a 3-under 69 for a one-stroke victory in the 3M Championship and his first Champions Tour victory in 21 months.

One week after losing the lead on the final four holes of the U.S. Senior Open, Kite moved ahead at No. 13 and secured the victory by rolling a 60-foot putt within two feet and tapping in for birdie at No. 18. He finished at 13-under 203, one stroke ahead of Craig Stadler, who missed a 15-foot eagle putt from the fringe hole at the TPC of the Twin Cities.

Third-round leader Tom Purtzer, Larry Nelson and Vicente Fernandez tied at 10 under.

Coughlin's move puts Barber, Toomer on punt returns

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Giving second-round draft pick Chris Snead a starting job on New York Giants' offensive line has been a move expected from new coach Tom Coughlin.

Having veteran starters Tiki Barber and Amari Toomer as the Giants' possible punt returners for the exhibition opener against Kansas City was a switch almost no one anticipated.

Coughlin made both moves on Monday, moving David Diehl to right tackle and giving Snead, his son-in-law, the open spot at right guard. The change put Ian Allen, who started 11 games last season, in a backup role.

The move that seemed to catch the players off guard was the decision to waive backup running back and returnman Delvin Joyce.

It left Barber and Toomer as the leading candidates to return punts on Friday against the Chiefs.

The Giants officially waived Joyce after two seasons because he has a hip injury. Coughlin, however, indicated that the 5-foot-7 Joyce was too small to play for him.

"I think he is a great kid, I really do," Coughlin said. "But I just felt we have to move on."

Barber and Toomer were stunned by the move.

"I was surprised they let Delvin go, but whatever it takes for this team to win, I'll do," said Barber, who was the Giants' punt returner from 1999-2001.

Toomer and Barber have been working with the punt team since training camp opened, but most thought it was only for emergencies.

Toomer, who has had five straight 1,000 receiving seasons, chose his words carefully in discussing being a punt returner. He did well early in his career, returning three punts for TDs in two seasons.

But he has had only nine regular-season returns since 1999 because of his expanding role as a receiver in the offense.

Raiders' Harris hurts knee during drills

NAPA, Calif. — Oakland Raiders linebacker Napoleon Harris injured his right knee during a training camp drill on Monday.

Harris, who started 29 games in his first two NFL seasons, was hurt during a scrimmage in the Raiders' first practice since returning from a day off Sunday. The team was not in full pads when Harris was injured.

A first-round pick in 2002, Harris collided with teammates while blitzing during a pass play. He fell to the ground and clutched his knee before Oakland's medical staff came over and helped him off the field.

Trainer Rod H. Martin examined Harris for more than five minutes before calling for a cart. Harris was then transported to a hospital for X-rays and an MRI exam.

"He strained his knee and they're going to go check it out and find out if it's serious," Raiders coach Norv Turner said.

Right tackle Lavonte Walker also came up limping on the play but was not seriously hurt.

NFL
briefs

Judge orders arrest of ex-NFL receiver Rison

The Associated Press

DECATUR, Ga. — A judge ordered the arrest of former star receiver Andre Rison on Monday for failing to pay \$107,350 in child support.

Sports briefs

Superior Court Judge Cynthia Becker ruled that Rison is in contempt of court and should be jailed for 30 days. She asked that other jurisdictions outside the state assist in the arrest. Rison was not at court Monday.

Rison hasn't paid his \$3,500-a-month child-support payment for his 16- and 18-year-old children since August 2002, the order said.

The child-support total is \$87,500, with the additional amount coming from interest and lawyer's fees.

Randall Kessler, a lawyer for Raycoa Handley, the mother of two of Rison's children, said he thinks Rison is in Michigan or Florida.

"I just want him to come forward and pay his child support. I didn't want him to go to jail," Handley said.

She said Rison hasn't seen or talked to his children in 2½ years.

Rison's lawyer, Max Richardson, said he is going to "try and see Mr. Rison does what he's supposed to do." He declined further comment.

Rison last played for the Oakland Raiders in 2000. He was suspended for four games in 2001 for a repeat violation of the league's substance abuse policy and has been out of football since.

Georgia LB suspended for three games

ATHENS, Ga. — Georgia linebacker Odeh Thurman has been suspended for the

first three games of the season for violating team rules.

Thurman will be allowed to practice, but will miss games against Georgia Southern, South Carolina and Marshall. The junior could return for the Oct. 2 game against LSU, a rematch of last year's Southeastern Conference championship game.

Thurman, who had 121 tackles last season, reported to Athens with the rest of his teammates on Saturday. Preseason practice begins Monday.

McGaughy, Desormeaux, Skip Away
inducted into racing's Hall of Fame

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Trainer Shug McGaughy, jockey Kent Desormeaux and 1998 Horse of the Year Skip Away were inducted into thoroughbred racing's Hall of Fame on Monday.

Among McGaughy's top feats were winning six stakes races in one day, campaign-

ing champion Personal Ensign through a 13-race unbeaten career, and sending Easy Goer out to win the 1989 Belmont Stakes.

Desormeaux, among the top riders in Southern California, won the 1998 Kentucky Derby and Preakness with Real Quality and the 2000 Derby aboard Pusaichi Pegasus.

Skip Away, among the most dominant horses from 1996-1998, enters the Hall a year after his trainer, Sonny Hine, was indicted posthumously. Hine died in 2000.

Goosen, Price withdraw from PGA

HAVEN, Wis. — U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen and three-time major winner Nick Price withdrew Sunday from the PGA Championship because of injury and family obligations.

Goosen, No. 6 in the world ranking, was injured in a jet ski accident two weeks ago. Price skipped last year to spend an extra week of vacation with his children.

The 24-second clock that saved NBA is 50

By WILLIAM KATES

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Dolph Schayes and some teammates scrimmaged in a small, stuffy high school gym exactly 50 years ago.

The short workout helped rescue the NBA and transform professional basketball from a chesslike contest into a fast-paced, gravity-defying game.

"I remember we were all huffing and puffing," the 76-year-old Hall of Famer said. "It was summer, so we were out of shape anyway. It certainly changed the tempo of play. It was all running. No standing around. It made the game more fun to play."

It was Aug. 10, 1954 and a group of team owners and governing board members in the fledgling National Basketball Association — Danny Biasone, Red Auerbach, Ned Irish, Eddie Gottlieb, Clair Bee — sat in the bleachers at Vocational High School in downtown Syracuse and watched as the 20-minute pickup game was played with a 24-second shot clock.

"There wasn't really a clock," recalled Schayes, a 12-time NBA All-Star who played from 1949 to 1964 with the Syracuse Nationals and Philadelphia 76ers and was the NBA's career scoring leader when he retired. "There was a guy on the sideline keeping it with a watch and yelling out the time. Twenty. Ten. Five, four, three ..."

"None of us at the time realized the significance of it. Arguably, it can be said it's been the most important rule change in the history of the game," Schayes said.

On Tuesday, Schayes will help Syracuse city officials mark the 50th anniversary of the game during a ceremony at the school, now Blodgett Elementary School. Fittingly, a basketball game involving local high school players will follow.

"It changed the game of basketball, and it happened here in Syracuse. It's a fact to be proud of," said Syracuse Parks and Recreation commissioner Pat Driscoll, who would like to see a perma-

nent memorial built to celebrate the moment.

In Springfield, Mass., at the National Basketball Hall of Fame, a display case explains the clock's history, said Dean O'Keefe, a museum spokesman. The clock's history also is included in the biography for Biasone, a Hall of Famer who owned the Syracuse Nationals and was one of the NBA's founding fathers.

Neither the Hall of Fame nor the NBA has anything special planned to mark the shot clock's golden anniversary.

In those early days, NBA games were low scoring, played at a poke-along pace that was threatening to kill pro basketball as a spectator sport before it even got started. With no shot clock, a team with a lead in the fourth quarter simply stalled until the clock ran down.

The lowest scoring game in NBA history was on Nov. 22, 1950, when the Fort Wayne Pistons defeated the Minneapolis Lakers 19-18. Fort Wayne outscored the Lakers 3-1 in the final quarter.

At Yale University, coach Howard Hobson was proposing a radical 30-second shot clock. Other colleges scoffed at the idea as a gimmick. In Syracuse, Biasone thought it could be the change needed to make the NBA game more exciting.

After years of lobbying, Biasone's guts persuaded his associates to come to Syracuse to watch an exhibition game.

In a 1992 interview with The Associated Press, Biasone explained that he came up with his magic number through simple arithmetic. At that time, each NBA team was averaging 60 shots a game, which meant that each game featured 120 shots. Since each league game lasts 48 minutes, or 2,880 seconds, that number divided by 24 equaled 120.

The 24-second shot clock made its NBA debut on Oct. 30, 1954, with the Rochester Royals defeating the Boston Celtics 98-95. The change had its intended effect. According to NBA records, scoring jumped that first year from 79.5 points per game to 93.1.



NASCAR Nextel Cup points leader Jimmie Johnson spins out during the Brickyard 400 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sunday. Johnson finished 36th, shrinking his series lead over Jeff Gordon to 97 points.

Gordon: Four-time champ gearing up for title run

GORDON, FROM BACK PAGE

"That was disappointing because we don't want to have any failures," said Johnson, who was coming off a win at Pocono but failed to finish for only the third time this season. "We want to be out there competing for every win, so we're more disappointed than anything else."

Gordon, who co-owns Johnson's car with his team owner, Rick Hendrick, appears to be in the better position now, even though he trails his teammate in the points.

"We're in the mode of getting all that we can get and I want to go into those last 10 breathing down those guys' necks, leading laps, showing that our pit crew is the best, that our cars are the best, that we are the team and the guys to watch coming into those last 10," Gordon said.

Like most everyone else, though, Gordon has mixed emotions about the new system.

A year ago, he would have been thinking only about catching Johnson with nearly half the

36-race season remaining. Instead, Gordon wasn't even thinking about points as he cruised toward his series-leading fifth victory of the season Sunday or as he celebrated afterward.

"We're kind of in a comfort zone right now, for the next five races," he said.

"In a way, we do go out there to win every weekend but, when there are points on the line, we do watch a little bit more on how

much rpm we're going to turn, how aggressive we're on the setup or if this is a day that we can test something for down the road."

Gordon said it would be nice to be able to just go out and race for wins with no other pressure all the time. But that isn't possible.

"It's just the nature of the business we're in," he said. "We all want that championship."

"But, right now, I like the position that we're in. It's awesome. Let me tell you, though, when it comes down to those last 10 races, it's not going to feel anything like this."

Brickyard 400

NASCAR Nextel Cup Series
Sunday
At Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Lead length: 2.5 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (11) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 161, \$31,093
2. (17) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 161, \$23,367
3. (13) Elliott Sadder, Ford, 161, \$20,124
4. (12) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 161, \$20,124
5. (24) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 161, \$20,124
6. (35) Greg Biffle, Ford, 161, \$18,175
7. (6) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 161, \$17,975
8. (32) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 161, \$20,176
9. (18) Bill Elliott, Dodge, 161, \$15,500
10. (15) Kurt Busch, Ford, 161, \$17,900
11. (13) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 161, \$17,900
12. (19) Jeff Burton, Ford, 161, \$17,742
13. (29) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 161, \$17,742
14. (10) Jeff Green, Dodge, 161, \$18,075
15. (30) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 161, \$18,075
16. (23) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 161, \$18,075
17. (4) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 161, \$18,075
18. (31) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 161, \$18,075
19. (13) Jimmy Johnson, Chevrolet, 161, \$18,075
20. (28) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 161, \$18,075
21. (38) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 161, \$18,075
22. (20) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 161, \$18,075
23. (26) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 161, \$18,075
24. (27) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet, 161, \$18,075
25. (16) Mark Martin, Ford, 161, \$18,075
26. (31) Casey Mears, Dodge, 161, \$18,075
27. (5) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 161, \$18,075
28. (40) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 160, accident
29. (6) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 158, accident
30. (30) Tony Raines, Dodge, 155, accident
31. (7) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 154, accident
32. (32) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 148, accident
33. (12) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 116, accident
34. (22) Kenny Wallace, Chevrolet, 99, accident
35. (30) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 99, accident
36. (9) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 88, accident
37. (27) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 72, accident
38. (21) Ryan Labonte, Chevrolet, 72, accident
39. (2) Wally Dorn, Chevrolet, 72, accident
40. (43) Derrick Cocke, Chevrolet, 55, violation
41. (24) Todd Bodine, Ford, 16, violation
42. (42) Scott Pruett, Dodge, 5, engine failure
43. (25) Jason Leffler, Chevrolet, 3, accident

Race Statistics

Time of race: 3 hours, 29 minutes, 56 seconds

Winner's victory: Under caution

Winner's average speed: 115.037 mph

Lap leader: Dale Earnhardt Jr., 2, 285

Lead Changes: Nine among six drivers

Lap Times: 2:27.81, 2:28.1, 2:28.5

2:28.1, 2:28.1, 2:28.1, 2:28.1, 2:28.1

2:28.1, 2:28.1, 2:28.1, 2:28.1, 2:28.1

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